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### **Santa was good to me**

Larry Smulczenski

The Numismatic Santa Claus slipped into my Post Office box almost a week before Christmas and delivered a gift that will keep me smiling well into the New Year. Before I tell you what it is let me tell all Gram readers about my penchant for the number 39. This is old news to my close friends and Festers, but I tell everyone I like the number 39. and consider it my favorite number. I have celebrated that 39th birthday for quiet a number of times now and it all goes back many, many years ago to a Fred Schwan adventure. We were at a Memphis show and Fred was showing everyone a full set (1 lira to the 1000 lire) of the first issue Italian AMC exhibiting a serial number with six zeros followed by a 39, yes 00000039. To say I was impressed would be major understatement. Fred said they could go home with me. I jumped at the chance and several payments later they were mine. I have never regretted that purchase. Then came Christmas of that same year. My wife presented me with a U.S. Silver Certificate with Hawaii overprint and serial number C00000039C. I could not believe what I was holding in my hands and had to ask where it came from. She said a friend of mine had sold it to her. You probably have guessed that Fred was that friend. He had seen it in a CAA (Currency Auction of America) Auction, bought it, and sold it to Prudy for a modest price and then sent me the bill for the rest. I was overjoyed. Who wouldn't rather have a two digit Hawaii note than a couple of new ties or a pair of pajamas. So, that was the beginning. We talked about what could we follow this up with as you simply couldn't go to a show and ask the dealers if they had any 39's. Believe me, I've tried and over the years created friends like Pam West, Dave Seelye, Mike Crabb, and Mike Abramson that have surprised me with the things they come up with. We decided that it would be neat to collect a basic set of MPC all from the same plate position 39. I've looked everywhere at MPCs for over 20 years trying to complete that project but still lack two notes, the 591--50c and \$5, So, in an unabashed plea, if you collect MPC, check to see if these two notes reside in your collection in any condition. If either does, please, please, please let me know. I would like to buy it or trade for it to your advantage.



Now that the commercial is out of the way let me tell you about my rules for collecting 39s. I only wanted notes that had 39 in the serial number-- no other digits except the zero because zero is nothing anyway, right? The 39 could be anywhere, at the beginning of the serial number, in the center, or at the end. Repeating 39's were fine as long as they were only separated by zero's. I love four 39's in row as a repeater or bookend 39's (39000039). Radar 39's are OK as a backward 39 (39000093). I even have a 93939393 repeater in my collection for my dyslectic friends. I was going to try to picture a few of these beauties, but that is probably too big an order for the current time. So I propose to offer them as a side-line in the Gram on a non-specific schedule similar to what Shafer and Huntoon do in the *Banknote Reporter* with their Notes of the Month.

We can start with the item that prompted this whole article--the one I'm still smiling about. This is a \$10 Soldiers War Bond purchased by a private during World War II who lists his beneficiary as probably a girl friend or fiancée. It was purchased on 21 February 1945, but has December 1944 as the date from which interest would be computed. The \$10 bond was introduced during mid 1944 to enable lower paid military personal to participate in the savings bond program. My interest in the bond is, of course, the serial number-- X3 399 039E. You will agree that there is a 39 at the end of the serial number but there is a 33 and a 99 prior to that which are not desirable by the rules in the previous paragraph. Ohhhh, I agree, but as I look at it, and in my mind as I see the serial number 3399039, I can extract the second and third digits which are a pure 39 and then I am left with a perfect 39039--bookends. I know you will groan, but remember, I made the rules, so I can interpret them anyway I please. I have looked at thousands of bonds over the years and this is as close as I've seen with a 39 serial number, so it earns a featured spot in my collection and I will keep smiling. As the country song goes, "That's my story and I'm sticking to it." Do you think with that kind of reasoning I can become a Politician?

## Summer Seminar

by Joe Boling

As usual, the American Numismatic Association Summer Seminar will be a great learning opportunity for anyone interested in military numismatics.

I have learned that my proposal to teach the counterfeit paper course at ANA summer seminar has been accepted for 2017 (I had been told before that I would have to go on an alternating year schedule, and I last taught in 2016). So, those of you who did not get to attend last June now have an opportunity from 24-29 June 2017 (seminar week 2). Go to [www.money.org](http://www.money.org), click on events, and then on summer seminar to see all the details (or try



[www.money.org/summer-seminar](http://www.money.org/summer-seminar)).

The military money course will not be taught in 2017, but the battalion clerk will have a two-day mini-seminar (MPC Boot Camp) on Sunday and Monday evening during the same week I am teaching counterfeit detection during the day. Week one will feature a first-time mini seminar on the numismatics of World War I taught by Dick Horst and ANA Curator Doug Mudd.

Scholarships for the counterfeit course are available from ANA. Remind them that PCDA funds two scholarships annually for paper money courses, and the only full-length courses this year dealing with PM are this one and Ricardo's on Mexican paper (in week 1). PCDA does not administer the scholarships - you have to apply through ANA, and the application is due 31 Jan. See the website for how to apply.

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## Editorial

Happy new year! 2016 was certainly an eventful year--one of the most important in the history of MPC collecting. Yes, the sale of the Paymaster Collection in August made instant history and the impact of that collection will be felt for a very long time. Unfortunately, the year closed with the passing of Bob Olson, one of the great military collectors.

The year ended with a nice find by Larry as reported above. That year end find for Larry has turned into a nice start to the new year for the rest of us! Furthermore, Larry has said that he will restart his popular Thurski column! Even if you do not actively collect war bonds, I think that you probably appreciate Larry's bond. The 39s are nice to be sure. I also like that the bond was sold to a private because it demonstrates the exact reason that the \$10 denomination was created. Still, my favorite aspect of this bond is something else. The bond has a Maine home address! Maine is not a common state with respect to war bond sales. I am hesitant to report that I collect these bonds by state (and especially) territory.

Joe's report re the Summer Seminar is important. The SS has been important in promoting military numismatics. Of course the center of that is military/World War II course taught in even years by Joe and me. Even in odd years the SS offers much of interest to Gramsters (and future Gramsters). Joe's counterfeit detection is a very important class. If you have not taken it, you should. If you are a dealer, you must.

This year there will be two mini seminars of interest. The most obvious is that we will again offer our MPC Boot Camp. This is only two evenings, but we really dig into MPC. If you know someone who might be interested in MPC, this is the class for you.

This year there will be a class on World War I. I think that this is wonderful! I am going to take this class and look forward very much to it. Hopefully, I will have some of you as students to the MPC class and as classmates for the WWI class! I am sure that we will discuss these matters more as the summer approaches.

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## Letters to the editor

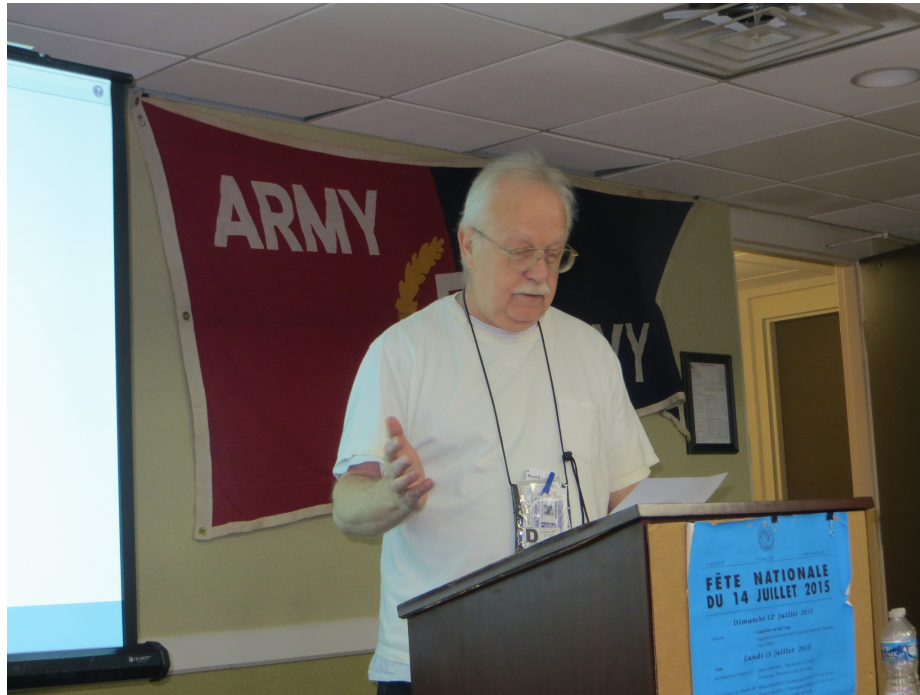
*Letters are encouraged on any subject related to military numismatics, MPCGram, and collecting in general. Opinions are those of the authors and letters are subject to editing. Thank you.*

Dear Gram,

I think that naming the MPCFest training award for Bob Olson is a

great idea. Bob was a great guy and collector. He presented a program every year at the Fest in spite of the fact that such public speaking was not part of his nature. Good idea, Jim.

Larry



Dear Larry,

Kris Tolek sent us this great picture of Bob Olson making his presentation (staff briefing) at MPCFest 17.

Editor

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United States Pattern & Experimental Pieces of WWII by Roger Burdette important and scarce book. One copy only available on ebay.

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### **MPC5 in Progress -- Ski promoted**

The fifth edition of the *Comprehensive Catalog of Military Payment Certificates* is in preparation according to the publisher. The fourth edition of the award winning catalog was published in 2002.

MPC research and collecting have been very active in the intervening years resulting in much in information and data for the book. In addition new features are in development.

Well known collector and MPC researcher Larry Smulczenski who has contributed to each of the previous editions has agreed to accept responsibilities as coauthor of the new book.

Collectors are encouraged to contact the authors (fredschwan@yahoo.com, skitex@yahoo.com).

Publication date, price and other publication data are not available at the moment, but will be published in the Gram as soon as they are available.

**THURSKI'S THURTY-9's**



by Larry smulczenski

I explained in my article "Early Christmas Present" how I obtained the set of first series (Series 1943) Italian Allied Military Currency with Serial Number 00000039. It appears that someone who had access to the original shipment of these notes may have culled the first one hundred notes plus a few and put together denominational sets of the notes with the same serial numbers. "World War II Remembered" lists five sets (numbers 39, 52, 69, 100 and 114) as having been reported. Since the book was published, the number 65 set appeared in the Lyn Knight 2015 PCDA sale. I have not personally heard of any other complete sets. If you know of any, please let us know. Additionally partial sets with numbers 27, 63, 64, and 101 were listed. A partial set, number 72 was sold by Lyn Knight at Memphis 2002 and another partial set, number 112 was sold by Stacks-Bowers at the 2011 ANA Convention. Corne Akkermans Auctions had the #27-1 lira, the #63-10 and 50 lire and the #64-100 lire notes in a September 2015 sale. What happened to the rest of the sets? I sure do not know, but you must remember that these notes were shipped into a combat environment. Some of the recipients may have had no interest in the notes and spent them, others may have been combat casualties or possibly the notes were turned in when Series 1943A replaced the Series 1943 because of threat that 50 and 100 lire notes could easily be



raised to 500 and 1000 lire values. There may still be other sets that remain in collections that are unknown to us and hopefully will surface in the future. But for the present time, I believe that the 39 set you see illustrated here is the lowest known serial numbered complete set, the lowest known serial number is the above mentioned 00000027.

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## **Editorial**

It has been very busy around here with work on MPC5 AND MPCFest preparations. In addition to many other aspects of the revision and updating of the book, I have spent the past few weeks updating the MPC replacement data base. I will report more on that soon, but I can report it was tedious!!

Most of you have and use MPC4. That is great. As indicated in the news above, we want to hear from you regarding corrections, addition, necessary revisions and any other thing that you can share with us to improve the product. Although I certainly hope that we do not wait another 15 years for MPC6, we want to make number 5 as good as we can!

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Dear Gram,

Have you decided on the theme for Fest 18?

Jim D

Jim,

Thanks for the prodding. We have been struggling with that. Basically, we want to use the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Midway as the theme, but that seems a bit narrow. Furthermore, it seems to be a bit redundant with the theme for Fest 17. True that was the war in the Pacific southwest, but it still seems too close. What do you think?

Editor/Battalion Clerk

Ski,

Checked and I can't help you with the last 2 #39's you need. would have been happy to swap if I could.

Larry G.

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## DISNEY AND WORLD WAR II



by Bill Myers

On pages 66 to 69 of the February 2017 issue of *Military Officers* an article titled "Disney Goes to War." It notes how Walt Disney and Walt Disney Studios produced 75 military training films (I have seen the ones about chemical weapons in my training), created almost 1200 military insignia (at no cost) and produced five anti-Nazi theatrical shorts. Everything Disney did was free or at cost. Disney employees served in the military and five died while serving. Other employees entertained the troops and raised funds for the USO. Walt Disney himself was a Red Cross ambulance driver in World War I. For the POW collectors, a US POW in Stalag Luft III created an insignia with Donald Duck behind a barred window in the camp with "I wanted wings" under the window. Disney used it to create a patch for the POWs, but the war ended before it could be shipped. The article lists other items Disney created including US Treasury Certificates, shown on the cover of a magazine that has "A Bond Grows With Baby" and an ad with the certificate that has a boy saying "Hey dad-buy one for me!". Another ad has the Disney characters encouraging the reader to "Buy Still More War Bonds." There is also a picture of a Cubgram which is a certificate for a baby for war bond from the War Finance Committee.

A lot of this information was interesting and new to me.

The Disney certificates are often listed for sale as war bonds which of

course they are not. They (the certificates) are nonetheless interesting and make nice additions to collections. Even if they are not bonds, they are historic and interesting and deserving of a place in our collections. These certificates were first listed in World War II Remembered. Varieties were included. They were again listed in World War II Savings Bonds with even more varieties. Guess what. More varieties have been found. --editor

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### **Editorial**

Larry Gibbs is an MPC hero. More specifically, Larry is a replacement hero! Since the beginning of eBay (many more years than you probably think), Larry has been recording MPC replacements that are sold (offered) on eBay. More specifically, he printed all of the listings! He has thousands of sheets of such listings. Actually, he had thousands of such sheets. No I have them.

Last summer when I was passing through Nebraska, the boss and I stopped by to visit Larry--and to pick up the treasure of data.

It took two weeks of work, but I have entered all of the data into my data base. I have not done much analysis of the data. We will have all of the information in the new book and likely we will preview it here too.

This effort by Larry is very important. I have been encouraging Larry to come to the Fest and he says that he wants too, but will not make it this year. Thank you Larry.

---

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Dear Gram,

I will have a table at the PCDA show in Chicago March 2-5, 2017. I will have my Judy as my lovely assistant.

David

Dear David,

Thanks for the notice. I am sure that many Festers will want to stop by to chat with Judy! The PCDA show was not on our schedule. That is not good. Thank you for the notice.

editor

Dear Gram,

Why are you listing the gram address under Roger? And fix the emeritus misspelling.

SECOND NOTICE

Joe

Dear Gram,

I have just seen in the MPC Gram that you are developing a 5<sup>th</sup> edition MPC catalogue. Could you please put me on your list to purchase a copy of the catalogue when you publish? Could you please give me an indication of price and postage to Australia?

Regards

Gavin Jones

Dear Gavin,

We do not know anything about pricing at this point and shipping to Australia will be a problem I am sure. I will try to figure out a way to ship a few boxes to Australia, but this is getting to be a bigger and bigger problem.

For the first time we have a little bit of information in the manuscript about the use of MPC by Australian forces in Vietnam. We would love to have more info and stuff! Any idea from down under?

Dear Editor,

The report in the MPC Gram that MPC5 is forthcoming is excellent news!

Are you able to make me even happier and tell me that the second edition of WWII Remembered is forthcoming as well? Any details about the update to this wonderful reference work would be very appreciated.

Thank you,  
Mike Schmidt

Dear Mike,

Thanks for writing. I will consider your letter to be encouragement. For ten years part of the plan was that when we could get the fifth edition of the MPC book finished, we would move on to Remembered. In spite of all of this, we work on Remembered too and we have much great material in the manuscript.

Interestingly, it was unstated, but the biggest problem holding the MPC book back was the replacement data. I will not tell you about all of the additional problems with that, but they seem to be solved (see editorial).

editor

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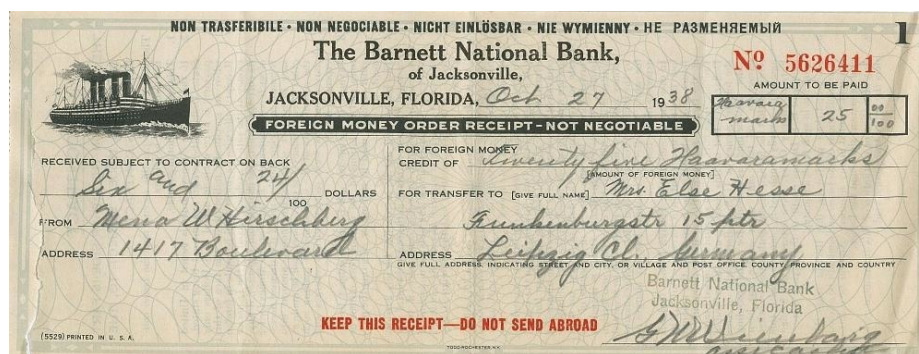


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## World War II German Currency Controls



by Jim Downey

The German financial reforms of the early 1930s introduced a number of new numismatic items. Among the better known items to collectors are Bordanweisung (Ship's Money Orders) and the bonds and scrip of the Conversion Office for German Foreign Debts.

The cornerstone of the financial reforms was the inconvertibility of the reichsmark and a prohibition on importing and exporting reichsmark currency. Inconvertibility of the reichsmark made foreign trade intentionally difficult so that it could only be accomplished on terms favorable to Germany.

The Germans introduced a number of regulations requiring blocked accounts which could only be used for narrow and very specific purposes. The unit of account in the blocked accounts was referred to as "Register Mark." Register marks could only be used for the specific purpose for which they were purchased. One example was travelers cheques purchased for foreign travelers on German cruise ships. While German citizens converted their reichsmarks into Bordanweisung, foreign travelers purchased travelers cheques denominated in Register Marks. These travelers cheques could only be used on the cruise ships or at tourist shops in Germany.

Another example of a type of restricted account was called Haavara Marks. The Trust and Transfer Office Haavara LTD was established in 1933 through a cooperative effort of the Nazi government and German Zionists to assist in Jewish emigration from Germany to Palestine. Haavara is the Hebrew word for "transfer."

The British run mandate in Palestine permitted entry into Palestine under a commercial permit if the émigré brought P£1,000 into the territory. German Jews desiring to emigrate to Palestine could deposit money into special accounts in Germany. That money (Haavara marks)

was used to purchase goods in Germany which were exported to Palestine and sold by the Haavara Company. Money from the sales of these goods was transferred to the émigré upon arrival in Palestine.

When a person's Haavara account in Germany reached the equivalent of P£1,000 that person was permitted to travel to Palestine. The cost of travel and other expenses were deducted from their Haavara account. The average amount received by an émigré upon arrival in Palestine was 43% of the amount they had deposited in their account in Germany.

Those outside Germany who desired to assist friends or relatives in Germany could transfer money into a Germans Haavara account by foreign money order. Articles in Jewish newspapers outside Germany explained how to transfer money into Haavara accounts in Germany. The exchange rate for Haavara marks fluctuated but was always higher than the rate for ordinary reichsmarks.

This was one of the few ways that foreign currency could be converted into reichsmarks, but not ordinary reichsmarks. Since Haavara marks were a unit of account, no banknotes or other financial documents were printed or issued by the Germans denominated in Haavara marks. The foreign money orders and their receipts transferring money into Haavara accounts are the only known items denominated in Haavara marks. Attached is an example of a receipt for a foreign money order from the Barnett National Bank of Jacksonville, Florida for 25 Haavara marks.

Although immigration to Palestine slowed in the late 1930s, trade through the Haavara Agreement continued until the start of World War II.

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## **Editorial**



10 sen	pos	sheet	50 sen	pos	sheet	1 yen	pos	sheet	5 yen	pos	sheet
H00277205A	35	5205	H00038906A	5	6906	H00023005A	17	7005	H00023005A	3	7005
H00202205A	26	2205	H00140906A	18	4906	H00077005A	10	5005	H00106574A	14	2657
H00187205A	24	3205	H00172902A	22	4902	H00102505A	13	6505	H00181548A	23	5548
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H00217205A	28	1205	H00184906A	24	906	H00137005A	18	1005	H00105074A	14	1074
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H00103507A	13	7507	H00094312A	12	6312	H00049521A	9	1521	Knight
H00169503A	22	1503	H00032001A	5	1	H00000504A	1	504	Seelye
H00082526A	11	2526	H00085303A	11	5303	H00019524A	3	3524	Larry
H00010506A	2	2506	H00077230A	10	5230				regular issues

Hey sharpshooters, i have something for you! First, we have the discovery of an issued Allied military 20 yen type A replacement. I believe that this is the first such piece reported in collections! I must confess that i have been sitting on this report for a while waiting for an appropriate moment.

A few years ago at a Memphis auction Lyn Knight sold a remarkable group of Allied military yen specimen books. The group included nine type A booklets (!) and an equal number of type B booklets. At auction lot viewing I diligently (if I say so myself) recorded all of the serial numbers. (Lyn or Joel, (or anyone else) can you tell me when that sale was?). I have been waiting for a time to use this info. Now is the time for that too. As you know, A yen was used as a trial MPC and is therefore listed in the MPC catalog as a first series of MPC.

Below you will find a summary of all of the notes by serial number. The last three lines are not from the auction lots. They are numbers from two booklets provided by David Seelye and Larry Smulczenski. The last line is of some issued note. Please have a look at the list. In addition to the serial numbers that I am reporting, I have included the position numbers and sheet numbers represented by each note. Here is where the sharpshooters come in (I can almost see Joe Boling reaching for his calculator). We do not know nearly as much about the printing of AMC (especially the yen issues for those printed in the US).

The calculations are based on the assumption that 8000 sheets were printed per unit. I also have assumed that for the high values, 50 notes were printed per sheet. I had hoped that I could use these calculations to prove my assumptions. For the moment I am disappointed. The highest sheet number is only 35. Does this make sense? The range of sheet



numbers is fascinating: from 1 to nearly 8000. In some ways that does not seem to make sense. However, I have just finished updating the data on MPC replacements. These data are no more strange than the strict MPC replacements.

So you are welcome to study these data and figure out what they are telling us. If you cannot solve these mysteries, you can send us additional numbers that you have for AM yen and MPC that may not have been previously reported.

Finally, we would love to have your comments, suggestions and the like on MPC. If you have a particularly interesting note or related item we probably would be happy to include it! I am thinking for example of low serial numbers (anything under 100 is interesting for sure).

---

## Letters to the editor

*Letters are encouraged on any subject related to military numismatics, MPCGram, and collecting in general. Opinions are those of the authors and letter are subject to editing. Thank you.*

Editor,

I found this interesting news item and thought that Gramsters would like it.

Frank C.

January 11th, 1945 -- Black veteran honored for war bond sales

On this day in 1945, Hugh McElroy, decorated black veteran, was honored by Henry Morgenthau Jr., United States secretary of the treasury, for participating in bond drives as a speaker and poster model. McElroy was reportedly the first African American whose picture appeared as an advertisement for United States war bonds. McElroy was born in Kentucky in 1884. In 1898 he lied about his age and enlisted in the Tenth United States Cavalry. He served in Cuba in the Spanish-American War and afterwards in the Philippine Insurrection and on the Pershing expedition into Mexico. During World War I he landed in France with the 317th Engineers. The much-decorated veteran retired in 1927 to Houston. In 1968 he and his oldest son rescued two children from a burning house near his Houston home. The Texas Senate commended the McElroys for their bravery. McElroy died in 1971.

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For more information, go to: [www.waukeshacoinclub.com](http://www.waukeshacoinclub.com)

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further details TBA.

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Iceland Ship Service Camp Knox 10 Aurar & 25 Aurar SB 1051,1052 Pair  
UNC \$35. domestic shipping free.  
[davideseelye@gmail.com](mailto:davideseelye@gmail.com)

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**Columnist at large:** Jim Downey - mufelika@itol.com

**Fest auctioneer:** Dave Frank - dave@frankcomputers.com

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## Fester Down



Fester Adolf Witzke died at his home in February 3. The following notice appeared at the site of the funeral home at the end of the notice.

Adolf B. Witzke Jr, age 74, of Perry formerly of Mentor, died Friday February 3, 2017 at home. He was born November 20, 1942 in Cleveland.

Mr. Witzke was a retired draftsman for Mahar Machine in Wickliffe, prior to that he worked for National Acme and the former White Motor Company.

Adolf was a US Army veteran serving during the Vietnam War.

Survivors include his wife of 49 years Frances "Bonnie" Witzke; sons: David B. Witzke and Brian L. (Sunni) Witzke; grandchildren: Mikhaela Doverspike, Sirius and Honest Witzke; siblings: Carol (Edward) Herbst and Walter (Michelle) Witzke.

Preceding Adolf in death are his parents: Adolf and Elsa Witzke Sr.

Offer condolences at [www.brunners.com](http://www.brunners.com).

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### **Editorial**

I learned of Adolf's passing via email from his son, Fester Brian Witzke. I entered the following comments at this site. I encourage all Festers to share some thoughts with the family. Brian will be at the Fest and according to him all future Fests! Normal Gram features will resume with Gram 2329.

Adolf was a gentleman and friend. I know him exclusively from our shared experiences at MPCFest. This event is for collectors of military money of World War II to the present. As strange as it seems this is a healthy and fun group. Adolf has been a keen participant for at least ten years.

I am not sure how Adolf started collecting military money, but I know how he started coming to the Fest. Somehow he heard about the book that I had written on Military Payment Certificates. He called me out of the blue to buy a copy. We chatted, he ordered a copy, and we chatted some more. Then we chatted. It was only about three weeks before the forthcoming MPCFest so I told him about it. In a wary tone he asked what that would cost. In response to my answer he said, why that is less than a weekend of duck hunting. Count me in.

Not only has he been there every year since, but he has recruited new Festers including his son Brian whom we are now happy to call Fester.

When Adolf came to his first Fest, he was not a user of the internet. No ebay. No email. Nothing. By the second Fest he not only used email and ebay, but his email address was AdolfMPC@....

Every year at the Fest Adolf gave a short presentation on items that he had found in the preceding year. Additionally, he always had an envelope for me. It had things that he had found that he thought would be of particular interest to me. They were never great rarities or expensive items, but they were items that he clearly had obtained specifically for me. Sometimes they were outright gifts. Sometimes I reimbursed him, but they were always appreciated and will be even more so no.

Adolf was a gentleman. I especially liked Adolf's wry sense of humor. He will be missed. We will honor him at MPCFest 18 March 31 - April 2.

Photograph courtesy of Kris and Cuneyd Tolek

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**Editor emeritus and columnist:** Roger Urce MPCGram@yahoo.com or stjasele@optonline.net

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### **Fest Auction**

by Dave Frank, auctioneer

We are 7 weeks before MPC Fest XVIII and it is time to begin consigning lots to the auction to be held at the Fest on Sunday April 2nd. The success of the auction depends on consignments and I am looking for them now. Basically you may submit as many lots that you want, there is no sellers fee. Lots can be submitted for sale or as a donation to the Fest scholarship fund. Remember that the money raised from donated lots fund the scholarships to send interested collectors to the Military Numismatics basic and advanced courses at the ANA Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs. Even though the Military Numismatics courses won't be offered this year, it's important to raise funds to send as many interested people as we can when they are offered again either next year or the following year. Since I am flying to the Fest and will have limited room to carry items I would appreciate it if you would send me a description of the lot with the minimum bid and designate whether it is to be a donated lot or one you wish to sell. Then please bring the lot with you to the Fest and I will collect them on Thursday or Friday of the Fest. If you are not coming to the Fest , but wish to submit lots, please contact me and I will provide further instructions. I really need the lot information sent to me no later than one week prior to the Fest so that I can produce a catalog that will appear in the Gram and so it can be included in the packet for distribution at the Fest. My contact email and cell is [dave@frankcomputers.com](mailto:dave@frankcomputers.com) and 314-602-4228.

Thanks and let's have another great auction.

More on Registermarks



by Greg Fedner

As a follow up to Jim Downey's great report about the WWII Nazi Germany Currency controls, here's an example of a Registermark for a

cruise ship Cap Arcona (of a sad fate, please read below), sometime in the 30's...

As per Wikipedia,

Cap Arcona, named after Cape Arkona on the island of Rügen, was a large German ocean liner built for the Hamburg Südamerikanische Dampfschiffahrts-Gesellschaft ("Hamburg-South America Line"). She carried passengers and cargo between Germany and the east coast of South America, and in her time was the largest and quickest ship on the route.

In 1940 the Kriegsmarine requisitioned her as an accommodation ship. In 1942 she served as the set for the German propaganda feature film Titanic. In 1945 she evacuated almost 26,000 German soldiers and civilians from East Prussia before the advance of the Red Army.

Cap Arcona's final use was as a prison ship. In May 1945 she was heavily laden with prisoners from Nazi concentration camps when the Royal Air Force sank her, killing about 5,000 people; with more than 2,000 further casualties in the sinkings of the accompanying vessels of the prison fleet; SS Deutschland and Thielbek. This was one of the biggest single-incident maritime losses of life in the Second World War.

For those wanting to know more about this ship's history, here's the link: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS\\_Cap\\_Arcona\\_\(1927\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Cap_Arcona_(1927))

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## Editorial

We have had many coincidences in the Gram. This was another. On the day that I received the article by Jim Downey, I was reading (listening to) a World War II book (as is my habit). Occasionally, I find a few numismatic tidbits to share with you here in the Gram. The book was The Nazi Titanic. It was the story of the Ca Arcona, the German passenger liner that then was the subject of Greg Fedner's followup on Downey's article!

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## Letters to the editor

*Letters are encouraged on any subject related to military numismatics, MPCGram, and collecting in general. Opinions are those of the authors and letter are subject to editing. Thank you.*

Dear Gram,

I've walked around all day with a heavy heart after I read about the loss of Adolf Witzke. What a great loss and my sincere condolences go out to his family. I remember when I met Adolf at the first Fest he attended. As we chatted, I asked where he was from and he answer with "Just down the road, I'm from Perry". "Oh, around Camp Perry," I answered. "We have been out to the Camp a number of times." "Nah, Nah, Nah," he answered, "Perry is on the other side of Cleveland." So that was my Ohio geography lesson for that day. Adolph was a quiet guy, just like our other recent loss, Bob Olson.

Most of the Festers are outgoing, talk frequently and loudly, but not

these two. Both would stand back, listen to what ever was being discussed, remember and therefore learned. And learn they did, very well. I remember having to oppose Adolph in our March Madness competition a couple of Fests ago. The question asked was about the country that issued "diminishing money" notes. I drew a blank, But Adolf answered Montenegro, and he was correct and I was eliminated. I can vouch that he learned and he learned well. Yes, Adolf, you will be missed and I can vouch to that too. --Ski

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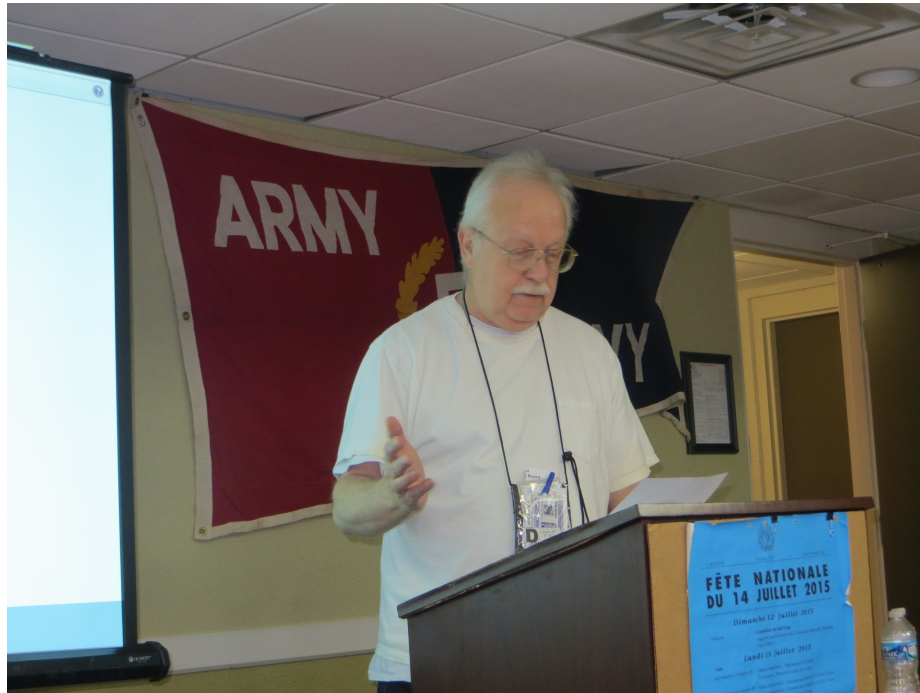


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### Staff Briefings Fest 18



Ray and Steve Feller

**FESTERS! WE NEED YOUR PRESENTATIONS FOR FEST XVIII**

As you know Fest XVI will be March 31-April 2, 2017 at Camp Leo May in Port Clinton. Last year we had well over 30 marvelous presentations. It is time for you to send us your topics and descriptions. Remember, this year's top gun trainer award will be made in the name of Bob Olson.

Therefore, please send to us, asap, at [ray.feller@gmail.com](mailto:ray.feller@gmail.com) the following:

1. Short Title with your name
2. A few sentences of description. This **MUST** include a Military Numismatic connection.
3. A jpeg or tiff file of an illustration or two--with decent resolution

Please do this now

**AM yen sheets**



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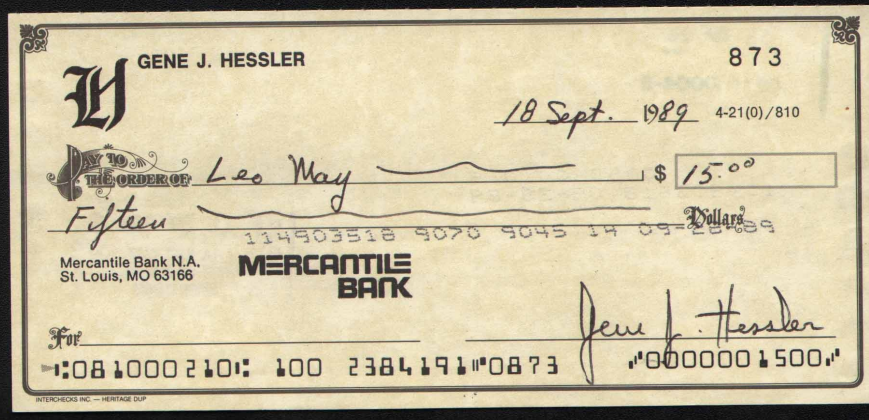
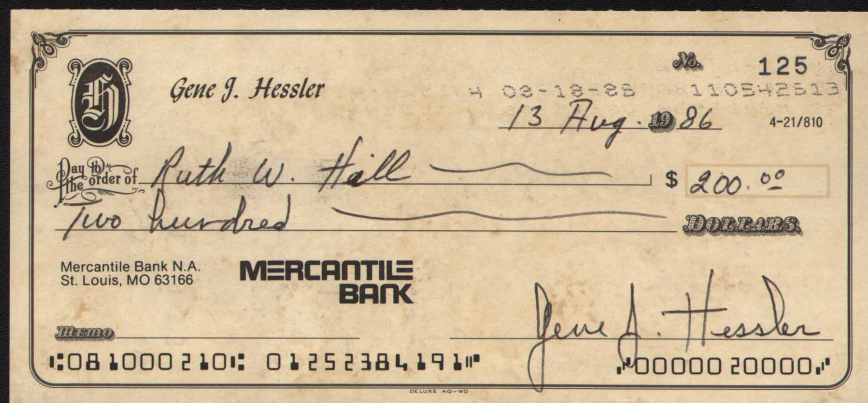
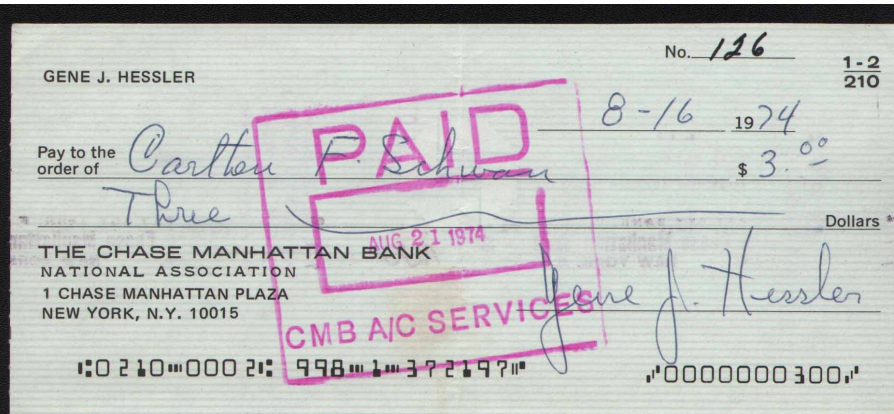
by Jim Downey

Fred recently wrote an item for the Gram in which he speculated about the sheet configuration of sheets for Allied military yen. [The images and data are repeated above--editor]

The BEP report for FY45 shows that AMC yen were printed as follows:

10 Sen to 1 yen - 100 per sheet  
 5 yen and 10 yen - 70 per sheet  
 20 yen and 100 yen - 50 per sheet

Based on hes calculations, I believe they were numbered in half sheets or in blocks of 4000 sheets. Remember also, they were printed by Stecher Truang but numbered by the California state printer. They may have used a different convention than the BEP.



In the snail mail I received an interesting little envelope from Gene Hessler. Some of the highlights are shown above. I see, you have it figured out. Gene has found a way to get me to accept his trash. No look again. The checks are historic documents for MPC collectors. All were written by Gene Hessler. That itself makes them of interest to MPC collectors, but wait, there is more as they say in the informercials. There are checks made out to departed greats Leo May and Ruth Hill. Those are really cool. The checks made out to Fred Schwan are not that interesting to me, but he is a future departed collector so it makes sense to include those checks.

As is often the case with checks, the more that you study them, the more interesting things that you find. The checks are written on two banks: Chase Manhattan and Mercantile Bank. What is so interesting about these? Gene Hessler was the curator of the money museums at these two banks. That is cool. Boy, Schwan and May were big shooters. Their two checks total \$18.

Now the real point. These checks and some others will be in the Fest Smlulczenski Scholarship auction having been donated by Gene. Thank you Gene.

Some time ago, Joe Boling and I had a discussion about his old personal checks. I think that he told me that he has every check that he ever wrote from the time that he went in the Army til, well, now. He went on to say something like one of these days he was going to dig them all out



and throw them away in pursuit of space savings. I jumped in that that would be a terrible idea. He should sell them in the Fest auction, give them away or otherwise distribute them. Heck, he probably has enough cancelled checks to give one to everyone in the American Numismatic Association! He could put them together in sets by rank or geography. I would like a set of those.

Do not get the idea that you should send your auction material to me. Contact Auctioneer Dave Frank. However, you can send me a scan of interesting items. Send a copy of the scan to the auctioneer at the same time. It would be helpful in many cases if you would include a bit of information on the item/items. We will include your items in the Gram as auction previews.

---

### Letters to the editor

*Letters are encouraged on any subject related to military numismatics, MPCGram, and collecting in general. Opinions are those of the authors and letter are subject to editing. Thank you.*

Dear Gram,

I have just completed my stock list of world paper money. If you did not receive a copy via email, write to me and I will be happy to send one to you.

ian marshall

"Ian Marshall" <papernorth@yahoo.ca>

---

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[davideseelye@gmail.com](mailto:davideseelye@gmail.com)

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### Secrets of the BEP MPC Designs



Larry "Ski" Smulczenski will make the keynote address at MPC Fest 18. The groundbreaking presentation will be on secret MPC designs from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

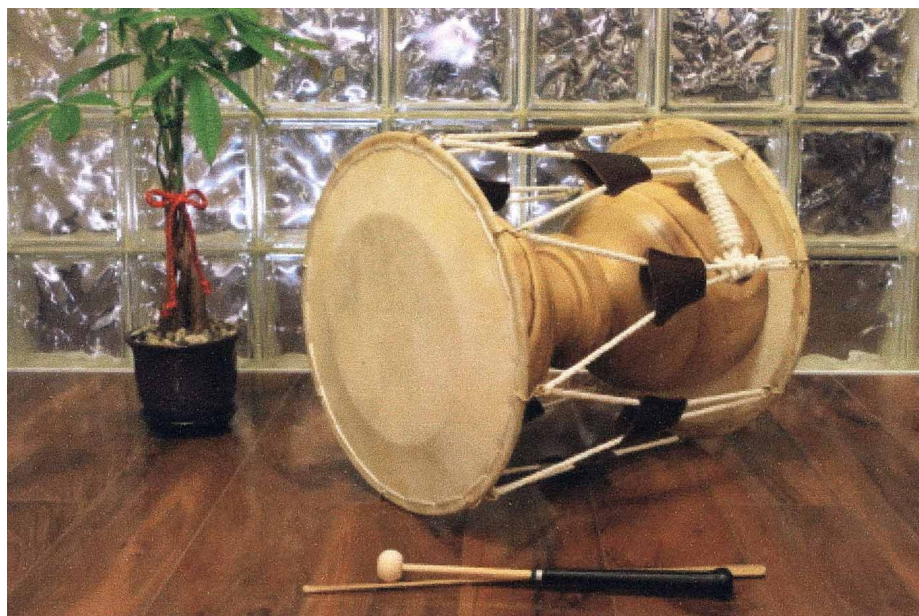
The program not only features art that has not been publicly displayed, it uncovers planned series of MPC that were never printed!

Collectors are certain to be as excited as they will be surprised at the great material that Ski will show.

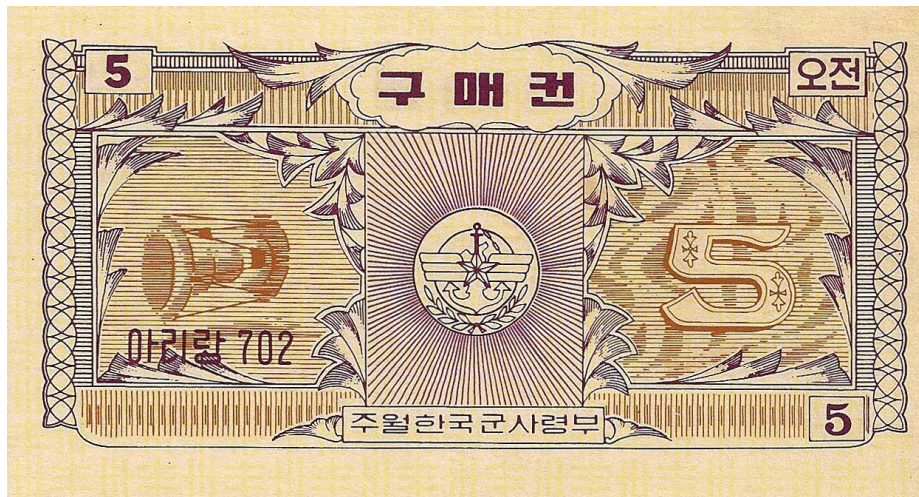
The keynote presentation will be Saturday April 1 at 1330. In spite of the date, this is a presentation that is as serious as it is spectacular.

Admission is free to all Festers. Visitors to the Fest may attend the keynote presentation for a \$25 donation.

### Thurski--Korean coupon space ship?







by Larry "Ski" Smulczenski

One of the real strengths of the Schwan MPC book has been the coverage given to Thai and Korean MPC coupons. This is appropriate since I did all of the early research on the coupons and has been an active collector of them since the time that they were first identified. The new book carries on with this tradition. It includes much information that has not been included in the past. Again, Fred has done much of the research. I have been reviewing his work on the subject.

That got me going on some of the obvious mysteries remaining. Specifically, we need to identify all of the items that appear on the coupons. So far I have had one good success.

The Second Series Korean five cent coupon has on the left side what is to the untrained eye an unusual device.

Fred once said that it looked like a space satellite. I do not even know if he seriously thought that it looked like one, but I am pretty sure that he did not think that it was a satellite.

In looking through earlier editions of the MPC book, I found that he at one time identified the object simply as a drum. It turns out that he was right, but then of course he was wrong when he took that identification out of the current book.

I am happy to tell everyone that with only a little internet searching, I found the mystery item.

It is a Janggu Chang'gu Changgu Changgo Korean Hourglass Drum! If you copy that text carefully, you can find these for sale on ebay and elsewhere. You may not be surprised when I tell you that I have a slight inclination to buy one of these. Can anyone out there play it for us a bit at the Fest?

---

## Editorial

As you can imagine, we are very busy at Fest headquarters. The hurrier I go, the behinder I get. Still the preparations are going well. It will be an exciting time for sure.

If you have not submitted your auction lots or reserved a slot for a staff briefing, please jump on those things immediately.

I expect to get another Gram out this week with bourse and other important information.

## Letters to the editor

*Letters are encouraged on any subject related to military numismatics, MPCGram, and collecting in general. Opinions are those of the authors and letter are subject to editing. Thank you.*

Dear Gram,

No, I did not say that I was going to discard my old cancelled checks (which are no longer accumulating anyway, because all I get back from the bank is a laser-printed image of the check). What I said was that at one point long ago, I had discarded my UNUSED checks on my Vietnam account at a military banking facility. I know now that MBF checks are of interest, even unused ones, and I wish I had retained them. But all the checks that were returned by the MBFs in Worms, Munich, Saigon, and Heidelberg are still with me. (I was in Pleiku, which did not have an MBF - thus the checks from Saigon.)

I picked up some interesting MBF checks from Bentwaters Air Base, England at a local stamp show - some written in sterling, but debited in dollars MPC, with the conversion rate written on each one. Interesting numbers - about \$2.80 to the pound in 1956. I will have them at Fest.

Joe

Dear Gram,

I was looking at some closed auctions on ebay and found this item that some smart buyer with 40 thousand plus feedback purchased, The key is a replacement Series 472 \$10! You can see the auction at <http://www.ebay.com/itm/282330702017>.



Danny,

That was a good get by you in finding the listing and especially by the buyer. That Series 472 \$10 replacement is really a nice piece. The cherry picking story certainly adds interest, but there is more. Much more.

The first thing that I noticed is that it is from position 10. I always like MPC with the position number matching the denomination. That is much more important with Series 472 because of the unique large position numbers. In this case the position number absolutely looks like a denomination counter!

There is more. For review, from what sheet number did this replacement come? Well, position 10 means that 9 positions were completed. Each position had 8000 numbers; 9 x 8000 equals 72000 so this note is from sheet 51 in the 10th position. Cool. It is also the lowest sheet number in the survey of replacements. Ok, that is real geek stuff, but there is more still!

This is really cool. The serial number of this replacement matches the serial number of a Series 681 50 cent certificate that was once in the collection of Ed Hoffman and was sold by Heritage some years ago.



While that is very cool. Matched numbers always are there is still more. Think about Series 681. What are the block letters for the series? C! Yes these two certificates are exact matches including the C block! That is very cool.

I would sure love to own this pair, but if I get lucky, I will dig around at the Heritage site and find an image of Ed's note so that we can at least have a pair of the images if not the notes themselves.

Finally, this story reminds me of something that Neil Shafer taught me. "There are no such things as duplicates." Once again, the sage knows.

fred

Dear Gram,

Records of Philippine Guerrilla units can be found at <http://collections.pvao.mil.ph/>

See everyone soon!

Jim Downey

Although the records are saved as PDF files they are not searchable.

Jim Downey

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### **Fest Bourse Sale and News**

The MPCFest bourse is the most unique commercial numismatic event in the country. First of all it is held only on a Friday! Everyone is an early bird! Even more importantly it is a bourse with specialized (and special) material. Dealers setting up at the MPCFest bourse have merchandise of particular interest to collectors of military money, coins, medals and the like.

The 2017 MPCFest Bourse is the 15 anniversary of the first Fest bourse. To celebrate this important anniversary, Fest headquarters has announced to changes. The bourse will henceforth be known as the David Seelye Bourse (simply Seelye Bourse for short). This naming is in recognition of Seelye's dedicated work as bourse chairman for the Fest Bourse since its inception.

Seelye stepped down as bourse chairman after the 2016 bourse but will remain as the honorary bourse chairman. He will also have his traditional two tables at the 2017 bourse and offer a wide variety of material for all Festers and visitors.

In further recognition of this special bourse, Fest headquarters has announced a sale on Fest tables. This year the bourse fee will be rolled back to \$100 for a full table and \$55 for a half!

As always, admission to the Fest bourse will be free.



### **THURSKI'S THURTY-9's**

by Larry Ski Smulczenski

It certainly was "a date that will live in infamy" and it worried the folk's in Washington that the Japanese would follow up the bombing of Pearl Harbor with a ground attack. That is exactly what happened in the Philippines, Malaya (Singapore) and Hong Kong with the confiscation of currency as the cities were overrun. This concerned Washington as well as Hawaii which was a U.S. Territory and used U.S. currency which could be looted during a ground attack and used against us in an all-out war. A plan was developed to produce a unique overprinted currency to be used in the Hawaiian Islands that could be invalidated if a large

amount fell into enemy hands. The notes have half inch long HAWAII printed on both ends of the face, the left side running from the bottom to top, the right from top to the bottom. The Treasury seal and the two serial numbers are printed in brown. The back has the word HAWAII overprinted in outlined letters across 70 percent of its width. The overprints were applied to Silver Certificates for the one dollar and to Federal Reserve Notes for the \$5, \$10 and \$20. The \$1 Hawaiian overprinted note with the serial number C00000039C shows the format used on all values. With a low serial number like this note possesses you would logically think that it is one of the earliest notes issued during this program. You would be completely wrong! The one dollar Hawaii overprint was administered during the normal one dollar Silver Certificate numbering print runs. This occurred during eight different Silver Certificate blocks plus the replacement block. Therefore the Hawaii serial numbers can be found from blocks YB, ZB, AC, CC, FC, LC, PC, SC and the \*A replacement block. The numbering was done sequentially with the Hawaiian overprint run inserted somewhere during the complete Silver Certificate block. The first three million Hawaiian \$1 notes were numbered on June 7-8, 1942 in the YB block with serial numbers between 68 628 001 and 71 628 000. These notes along with 5, 10 and 20 dollar Hawaiian overprints were promptly shipped to Hawaii. The pictured note did not reach the printing presses until the fourth increment of \$1 Hawaiian note numbering which began on September 29 and finished on October 8, 1942. The C-C block was the only block that the Hawaiian overprints started with the serial number 1 whether it was the 1, 5, 10 or 20 dollar notes being numbered. Therefore the pictured note is the only 00000039 serial number for the entire Hawaiian overprint series.

This note was auctioned by Currency Auctions of America as Lot 965 on 9-10 November 1990 in St. Louis, Missouri. CAA later merged with Heritage Auctions. Fred Schwan was in St Louis at this time and attended the auction. He saw the note and since he had recently sold me the Italian AMC set with serial numbers 39, he figured he knew someone who would like it. So, he bid on and won the note. He then sold the note to my wife who gave it to me as a Christmas present. Needless to say, I was overjoyed. Who wouldn't want a two digit serial number Hawaiian note instead of a new shirt, tie and some underwear. This is the third lowest serial number that I know of for the Hawaiian Overprints. Lot number 964 in the same auction was serial number 38. I have been too happy with my note to question Fred on who bought that note. Who knows, it may exist in the Black Hole.

The lowest known serial number Hawaiian overprint is C00000013C, reported by Jeremy Uota in "Hawaii Overprint Currency Catalog." The 13 note has a courtesy autograph by H. Morganthau Jr. to Nicholas P. Gregory and is dated 1942. That places the autograph to the late part of 1942 as I mentioned above that the C-C block wasn't numbered until late September thru early October. This note supposedly is in a Hawaiian collection. I have searched for the name Nicholas P. Gregory but have not made any progress. There is one other two digit serial number known, the 94 which is in another Hawaiian collection. Are there any others? I would say, very likely. Even the non-collector that notices that the note he holds has a serial number with lots of zero's and just one or two other digits will put it aside and keep it. Then it will lie in a drawer for years until some family member finds it. Finally, there are probably others in collections that the owner simply does not want to publicize.



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## Editorial

The news story above that the Fest bourse is free as always is not actually correct. For the first bourse, the Fest paid a bonus of \$5 cash to everyone who attended the bourse. However, the nationwide media could not deal with this concept and listed the event as charging a \$5 fee for entry. Of course that ruined the whole point so that idea was dropped.

The Seeley bourse will again be a great opportunity for you to buy and sell material. In the letters section you will find a notice from Jim Downey about the material from the Olson collection that Jim will have for sale at the Fest. Brian Witzke will also be there with material from the Adolf Witzke collection.

While it is sad, very sad, not to have Bob and Adolf at the Fest, they would both be pleased to have fellow Festers obtain material therefrom. Their spirits will be there.

In the next Gram we will have a full list of bourse dealers for Fest 18! We have been using the Fred plan of organizing the bourse, that is we have done very little so far. If you had a bourse table last year, you have a reservation for this year! In addition to those sellers, and those mentioned above, if you would like a table or half table at the special sale price, write to the Gram today (or call 419 349 18720).

---

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Dear Gram,

I have the following items for sale that I am selling for the estate of Bob Olson. If interested in any of them, please contact me at [mufelika@itol.com](mailto:mufelika@itol.com). I can provide a complete inventory of each portion of his collection. Other parts of his collection (Savings Bonds, Savings Stamps and Booklets, Training Money, etc.) will be available for sale at the MPCFest Bourse.

Vietnam Chit Collection

Vietnam Token Collection

US Stateside Installation Chit Collection

US Overseas Installation Chit Collection

South Vietnam Postage Stamps

Republic of Korea Postage Stamps

Danish Postage Stamps

Iceland Postage Stamps

Greenland Postage Stamps

Allied Military Government

Jim Downey  
[mufelika@itol.com](mailto:mufelika@itol.com)

Dear Gram,

I will be attending the MPCFest 2017 and can not bring all my MPC. So if you want to look at specific MPC, please send me an email, so that I may have a selection of grades and prices for you.

David E. Seely

---

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Austria 25 Schilling AU+. One minor corner crease. Bright colors.  
14 Day return, buyer pays shipping. Sent priority mail.  
\$950.00

Jack Lippincott  
[pittbucks2@comcast.net](mailto:pittbucks2@comcast.net)



MPC series 611 5 cents Schwan 871r Replacement PMG 65EPQ GEM  
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[davideseeleye@gmail.com](mailto:davideseeleye@gmail.com)

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**Unique Bourse Named -- Spectacular First-Time Display**





The MPCFest bourse is unique in many ways as is described below, but first a special announcement. The MPCFest bourse will henceforth be known as the David Seelye bourse in honor of David Seelye who was the bourse chairman for the first sixteen such events! David created, managed, supervised and nurtured the event creating a very special event in its own right. David retired from his bourse&nbsp;management duties after the 2016 Fest bourse, but will have his normal wide array of material at this year's bourse and says that he intends to be at many more.

The most obvious unique factor of the Seelye Bourse is that the bourse

is held on Friday only! In this case, Friday March 31. The most important unique factor is the specialized--and special--nature of the merchandise for sale at the event. Because the bourse is held in conjunction with MPCFest (itself a unique event in numismatics) the dealers offer a wide array of military and emergency money--military payment certificates, Allied military currency, Japanese Invasion Money, military money from many countries, war savings items (defense and war bonds and the like).

For the first time, they year's bourse will feature a spectacular and important exhibit. For the first time at any numismatic event (or anywhere else for that matter) will be specimens of Military Payment Certificates Series 701 fractional notes. These notes were printed at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. They were intended to be issued in Vietnam, but were never issued. The fractional notes were only printed as part of the first printing of the series and have never been on display for the public. The notes will be on display from 11am to 2 pm on March 31.

The sellers with tables include full-time dealers and collectors who only set up one time per year. You should be able to find material of interest. Confirmed table holders (alphabetical order) with notice of some of the material you can expect to find at the table.

Joe Boling (world notes, books, and more)  
Carlson Chambliss (books and MPC specimen notes)  
Jim Downey (material from the Bob Olson collection)  
Al Glaser (Fest notes, super bowl tickets)  
Harold Kroll (Nazi notes and more)  
Fred Schwan (war bonds and surprises)  
George Schweighofer [Currency Quest] (US federal paper money)  
David Seelye (wide array of military and world notes)  
Neil Shafer (wide array of world and military notes)  
Brian Witzke (notes from Adolf Witzke collection)

Entry to the bourse is free and the public is invited. It has not always been so. For Fest Bourse one, organizers offered to pay \$5 to visitors to the bourse! That attempt was a complete failure! Why you ask. The print media could not handle a negative entry fee and listed the entry fee as \$5! That destroyed the whole idea. Even if that idea was a failure it is a good example of the type of innovations represented by MPCFest and the David Seelye Bourse.

The David Seelye Bourse will be held at the Holiday Inn Express, 50 NE Catawba Road, Port Clinton, OH 43452. For lodging call Kim (419) 732-7322. For other questions call Fred at 419 349 1872.

MPCFest is a celebration of the military money hobby. Military payment certificates to be sure but also much more. • Twelve collectors gathered for MPCFest I in 2000. In 2016 more than 50 collectors gathered for a weekend of fun at Camp Leo May (Holiday Inn Express), Port Clinton, Ohio. Preparations are advancing for MPCFest 18 March 31-April 2. • The Fest is not called a show because it is not a traditional numismatic event. Participants pay a fee and attend for the entire duration: Friday evening through Sunday afternoon. There is plenty of trading and even some dealing, but it is not like any show you have ever seen. Originally we had no bourse at all, now a bourse on Friday is more or less a pre Fest. It is the only bourse in the country that is exclusively on Friday. Activities at the Fest include: paycall and conversion of Military Fest Certificates (MFC), presentations by Festers (usually about 25!!!), national championship contest (the winner is the national champion collector), reenactment military poker game (using MFC with bragging rights to the winner (as well as a champion's bracelet)), charity auction with proceeds supporting scholarships to the military numismatics classes at the American Numismatic Association Summer Seminar (more than 40 scholarships have been awarded), historic field trip on Sunday, and more! Cannot make it to the entire Fest? Come to the bourse on March 31, 10am - 4pm.

### **Preliminary Fest Duty Assignments**

MPCFest Headquarters has announced preliminary duty assignments for MPCFest XVIII. Those assignments are listed below for review by Festers and for the interest of everyone. Discrepancies should be reported immediately. Complaints on the other hand will be taken after the Fest.

The draft training schedule will be released in the next Gram.

Battalion Roster, by company with duty assignments MPC Fest XVIII



A, 1SG (blue) Glaser, Al  
A, assistant 1SG Watta, John  
A, co bond officer Drew, Robert  
A, assistant bond officer Shafer, Neil  
A, guideon bearer Chambliss, Carlson  
A, fire marshall Witzke, Brian  
A, asst mess sergeant Hunsicker, David  
A, asst bond officer Aitken, Jim  
A, protocol officer Dunn, Dick  
A, lottery and awards Buckley, Mike  
A, collector Potter, Lehman

B, 1SG (green) Myers, Bill  
B, asst 1SG, MM host Downey, Jim  
B, auctioneer Frank, David  
B, golfer Waddel, Ron  
B, operations officer Feller, Steve  
B, promoter Spungen, Danny  
B, translator Fedner, Greg  
B, registration Phipps, John  
B, dealer Pomex, Steve  
B, medic Poe, Randy

C, 1SG (yellow) Giese, Brian  
C, assistant 1SG Smulczenski, Larry  
C, auction assistant Freeland, Dan  
C, auction, glee club Freeland, Kathy  
C, honorary hourse sergeant Seelye, David  
C, mess sergeant Jach, Karen  
C, yearbook editor Tolek, Kris  
C, yearbook gofor Tolek, Cuneyd  
C, silver trader Schrier, Nick  
C, co bond officer Talso, Warner

D, Sr. Chief (red) Urce, Roger  
D, assistant 1SG Boling, Joe  
D, NEO officer Boling, Louise  
D, class A agent Kroll, Harold  
D, bn travel guide Irick, Brett  
D, collector Slade, George  
D, dealer Schweighofer, George  
D, author Brandimore, Bill  
D, KP Volchko, John†  
D, KP Heim, John†

H, bn clerk (black) Schwan, Fred  
H, boss Schwan, Judy  
H, casino officer Schwan, Brad  
H, artist Schwan, Dave  
H, photographer Flash Gordon

---

## Editorial

MPC Fest is almost here. Of course it sneaks up on us. Not only can I not believe that it is nearly here, I cannot believe that it will be Fest number eighteen. Can it be? I well remember at Fest I, the main topic of discussion was MPCFest II. We twelve all agreed that there should be another Fest, now we are pushing twenty.

I am as excited about the prospect of seeing everyone as I am tired of preparation details. There are always computer and other problems to tend to and this year is no different. From the perspective of Fest headquarters, we have a few changes planned. Some of those might be

innovations, others reactions to those pesky problems mentioned above. From the perspective of a Fester, I am excited about seeing everyone and learning from their staff briefings. I know that there are some good one planned and I am also sure that there are some great ones in the works that I do not know about. Of course my own staff briefing is in preparation, but behind schedule. I am behind in sending images to Ray.

---

## Letters to the editor

*Letters are encouraged on any subject related to military numismatics, MPCGram, and collecting in general. Opinions are those of the authors and letter are subject to editing. Thank you.*

Festers,

Have you sent in your program listing for your staff briefing? We need them right away. Please include a few images that will highlight your presentation if possible. We have a great selection of briefings and want to have great program listings too.

Send them now.

Ray Feller  
rayfeller@gmail.com

Dear Ray,

Thanks for the reminder. The hidden message seems to be that it might be possible who have been negligent in not reserving a spot might be able to still get a spot!

Get to it everyone.

Editor

Dear Gram,

The 2017 Fest Yearbook is going to the printer next week. Every year we have disappointed Festers who do not get a yearbook because they did not order a copy ahead of time. We have reservations from the following: Freeland, Feller, Potter, Jach, Boling, Drew, Myers, Schwan, Shafer and Giese.

Toleks

Dear Toleks,

I love my yearbooks. I often carry the most recent one with me when I go to major conventions and shows. People ask me what the Fest is. I hand them the yearbook and they get the idea. Before we had the yearbook I was at a loss to answer that question.

I look forward to getting my new at the Fest.

Editor

---

## Training Schedule (Gram Calendar)

The Gram calendar is different from most numismatic calendars. We strive to list events that are of specific interest to Gramsters. This does not mean that we will not list general coin or paper money shows, but there should be something of special interest to collectors of military numismatic items. We will be happy to list non traditional events if they

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2017

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### **Fest Hotel Renovations**

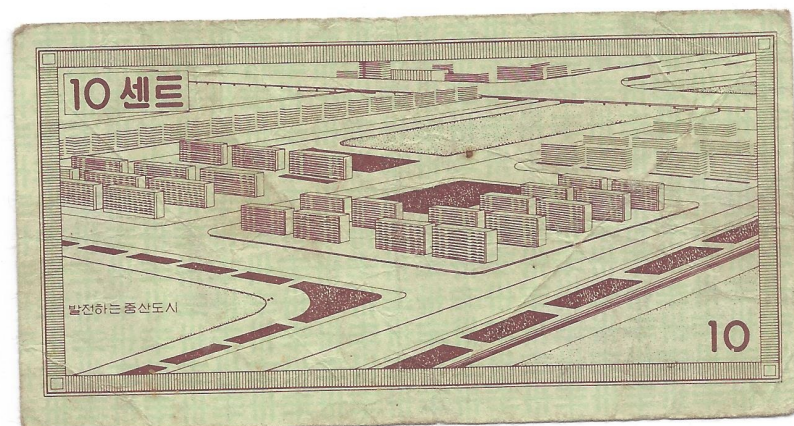
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**June 7-11** IPMS (formerly widely known as Memphis) Kansas City, MO. further details TBA.

---

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*Do you have something for sale (or trade)? You can offer these items here in the Gram Exchange. Send your text and images (!) to the editor for inclusion in the Gram Exchange.*







Korean MPC coupons:  
 Series 2 10 cents, VG-F \$200  
 Series 4 10 cents F-F+  
 Free domestic shipping.

[davideseelye@gmail.com](mailto:davideseelye@gmail.com)

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**Columnist at large:** Bill Myers

**Columnist at large:** Jim Downey - [mufelika@itol.com](mailto:mufelika@itol.com)

**Fest auctioneer:** Dave Frank - [dave@frankcomputers.com](mailto:dave@frankcomputers.com)

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### **Freyersers to Fest and More**

Loretta and Dick Freyser will be at the Fest! That is good news, but the only reason that is is news is a mistake by Fest hq (gasp). Yes, the Freysers will be there. See the corrected Fest list below. The Seelye Bourse list is also updated with the addition of Steve Pomex whose omission was another HQ failing. Apologies to all concerned.

Seelye Bourse List for Fest 18

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Carlson Chambliss (books and MPC specimen notes)  
Jim Downey (material from the Bob Olson collection)  
Al Glaser (Fest notes, super bowl tickets)  
Harold Kroll (Nazi notes and more)  
Steve Pomex (variety of WWII material)  
Fred Schwan (war bonds and surprises)  
George Schweighofer [Currency Quest] (US federal paper money)  
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draft version 2

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A, assistant 1SG Watta, John  
A, co-bond officer Drew, Robert  
A, assistant bond officer Shafer, Neil  
A, guideon bearer Chambliss, Carlson  
A, fire marshall Witzke, Brian  
A, asst mess sergeant Hunsicker, David  
A, asst bond officer Aitken, Jim  
A, protocol officer Dunn, Dick  
A, lottery and awards Buckley, Mike  
A, collector Potter, Lehman

B, 1SG (green) Myers, Bill  
B, asst 1SG, MM host Downey, Jim  
B, auctioneer Frank, David  
B, golfer Waddel, Ron  
B, operations officer Feller, Steve  
B, promoter Spungen, Danny  
B, translator Fedner, Greg  
B, registration Phipps, John  
B, dealer Pomex, Steve  
B, medic Poe, Randy

C, 1SG (yellow) Giese, Brian  
C, assistant 1SG Smulczenski, Larry  
C, 1SG (retired) Freyer, Dick  
C, registrar (emeritus) Freyser, Lofreta  
C, auction assistant Freeland, Dan  
C, auction, glee club Freeland, Kathy  
C, honorary bourse sergeant Seelye, David  
C, mess sergeant Jach, Karen

C, yearbook editor    Tolek, Kris  
C, yearbook gofor    Tolek, Cuneyd  
C, silver trader    Schrier, Nick  
C, co-bond officer    Talso, Warner

D, Sr. Chief (red)    Urce, Roger  
D, assistant 1SG    Boling, Joe  
D, NEO officer    Boling, Louise  
D, class A agent    Kroll, Harold  
D, bn travel guide    Irick, Brett  
D, collector    Slade, George  
D, dealer    Schweighofer, George  
D, author    Brandimore, Bill  
D, KP    Volchko, John†  
D, KP    Heim, John†

H, bn clerk (black)    Schwan, Fred  
H, boss    Schwan, Judy  
H, casino officer    Schwan, Brad  
H, artist    Schwan, Dave  
H, photographer    Flash Gordon

† new Fester

---

## Editorial

Computers are wonderful things. Computers are frustrating things. Well, people are wonderful and frustrating too. I have had some interesting experiences with both--computers and people.

Recently an unnamed Gramster called to complain that he was not receiving the Gram. He had made such calls several times. I was determined to come to the bottom of the matter. First, I confirmed that his correct address was in the list maintained by the service that we use for the Gram. When the Gram is ready to send, I usually use the test mechanism that the service has and send a test to myself. This time I sent a test to myself AND to the Gramster. Then I waited a day.

I do not remember if he called me or I called him, but we talked after a day or so. He made his oft-repeated complaint of not receiving the Gram. After I regained my composure, I asked him if he had checked his spam box.

He said that he was going to call Verizon because he was not receiving his Gram. It was hard to dissuade him from this idea. After all Verizon seemed to be stealing his Gram. Eventually, I held his hand, we found his spam box and his missing Grams. He seems satisfied to look in his spam box instead of trying to fix it. Still, I have a worry. This fellow's mail is with Google. Is it possible or likely that we, the Gram, will be blocked from all Google email addresses because of this? Probably not, but how about black marks with Google leading up to general non delivery? Does anyone know?

Here is a clue that I probably should not give. This Gramster is coming to the Fest. Perhaps I can get one of our geeks to sit down with the fellow and at least fix his account. Just what I need, another thing to remember to do at the Fest.

As you saw from the lead stories, I had to correct the Fest battalion roster AND the bourse list in good ways. That is I had to make additions. Basically, both mistakes were mine, although I had a co conspirator for

the battalion list.

You have not even heard the biggest mistake/problem to come to light just this morning. Senior Chief Urce called to discuss a small Fest matter and to orally give me the letter to the editor below. He thought that it was necessary to call it in so to speak because (he said) the many things that he had sent to the Gram had not made it into print (electrons)! He mentioned a report on the FUN show, a letter about the passing of Olson and Witzke, a book review, letters and more.

Oh my. That was very bad. Where had he sent them? To MPCGram at Yahoo as I had instructed him he said. That made a lot of sense since Roger and I had both used MPCGram at Yahoo as our primary email address in previous stints as editor.

I have not logged into MPCGram at Yahoo in a loooooong time. I actually remembered the password that I had used when I first created that address, but Roger had had to change that in a e=security upgrade. He thought that he might remember that password. He gave me a few variants of that password and I was off.

I could not make any of his ideas work. Not with much confidence I clicked on the forgot my password button. It came up with one of these methods of confirming identity and assigning a new password via the phone number that was given when I created the identity. The first Gram was in 1999 so I created the address before that. I held my breath. Yes! The number that Yahoo had is my cell number. I completed the little procedure and looked in on the nearly 1000 unread emails that have accumulated in this fiasco.

I must confess, when Roger took over as editor/manager of the email address, I left him with a few thousand unread/processed emails. He cleaned that up and kept it that way during his tenure and gave it back to me perfectly clean. Here I have completely messed it up again.

So I deleted many hundred of the most annoying junk/spam, but I still have many to go. I found the missing reports that Roger had told me about. I hope to get them into the Gram soon.

Roger said that the reports were now stale. I told him that I do not agree. I told him (but did not mean) that I could rename the report on the FUN show as a report on CPMX or even save it and use it as a Memphis (in Kansas City) report.

So there we are. It is probably best to write to me more or less directly at fredschwan@yahoo.com. I will try to figure out how to have email forwarded directly from MPCGram to fredschwan, but I cannot be sure. I actually thought that I had done that. Very possibly I had but that such things likely have expiration dates. I will give you a follow up report.

---

## Letters to the editor

*Letters are encouraged on any subject related to military numismatics, MPCGram, and collecting in general. Opinions are those of the authors and letter are subject to editing. Thank you.*

Dear Gram,

I would like on of the Fest 17 yearbooks. Send me instructions and I will send payment.

Mike Crabb,

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your order. You implied point is very good. We did not include the email address of the editor in the previous notice for direct ordering. So write to ctolek@yahoo.com. I am also going to add the

yearbook editor to the mast foot (?) listings at the bottom of every Gram.

Mike, while I am writing to you, we would love to have you come to the Fest one of these years! I drove (and occasionally flew) to Memphis many times and had a pleasant trip along the way as well as a GREAT time at the show, so you could reverse that experience by joining us. Fest XX might be a good opportunity!

editor

Dear Gram,

I was excited to read and will be to see that a set of Series 701 fractional notes will be on display at the Fest. Of course I have seen pictures, but I have never seen the actual notes.

Roger

Dear Roger,

Yes, it should be exciting. Everyone should pay special attention to the fact that the set will be on display during the Seelye Bourse so that visitors to the bourse in addition to Festers can see the set.

Editor

Dear Editor,

I do not know if many Festers and Gramsters are aware, but Philippine collector Ken Berger has written a detailed book dealing with Philippine emergency notes from Cebu Province which were counter-stamped and signed. The softcover book, with a forward by Neil Shafer, and a prolog by Philippine expert Ray Czahor, features black and white images of the notes and comes with a CD containing an addendum and color scans of the notes. There is quite a bit of detailed information dealing with the history of the notes and why they were counter-stamped and signed. It is a good read and I recommend that anyone who has an interest in Guerrilla notes should make this book part of their numismatic library.

Ken has donated a copy for the Fest Auction.

Email Ken at [csinotes@juno.com](mailto:csinotes@juno.com) for additional information.

Roger Urce

---

### **Training Schedule (Gram Calendar)**

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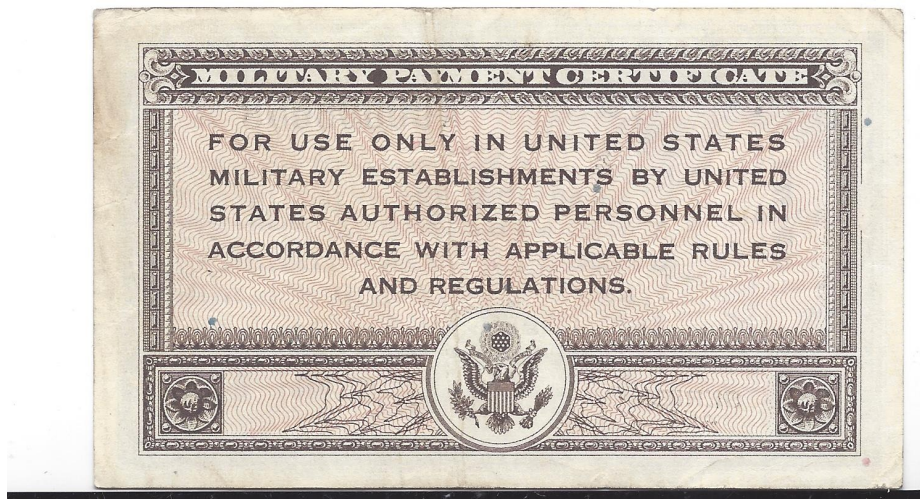
**June 7-11** IPMS (formerly widely known as Memphis) Kansas City, MO.  
further details TBA.

---

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*Do you have something for sale (or trade)? You can offer these items here in the Gram Exchange. Send your text and images (!) to the editor for inclusion in the Gram Exchange.*





VF \$225 with slight stain at upper left. [davideseelye@gmail.com](mailto:davideseelye@gmail.com). Free domestic postage.

---

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**Columnist at large:** Jim Downey - [mufelika@itol.com](mailto:mufelika@itol.com)

**Fest auctioneer:** Dave Frank - [dave@frankcomputers.com](mailto:dave@frankcomputers.com)

**Fest yearbook editor and photographers:** Kris and Cuneyd Tolek - [ctolek@yahoo.com](mailto:ctolek@yahoo.com)

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### Mystery to be solved at Fest XVIII

by John Watta



During the summer of 2016 a customer sold the following roll of bills to Greater Milwaukee Coin. Fester John Watta immediately purchased them from the owner when he saw writing on the 2d note... a 1-centavo JIM from the Philippines.

On the top of the note it appears to read: "From the very pack of Fleeing Jap."

On the bottom: "Dahile, Palauan, P.I. 3-20-45"

The roll has NOT been unrolled beyond the 2d note.

#### QUESTIONS:

1. How many notes are in the roll?
2. What notes are in the roll?
3. Are there any "short snorter" notes in the roll?
4. Was this worth the purchase price of \$5?

The roll **WILL NOT** be unrolled until Fest XVIII... at the Philippine Collector's Meeting. Will you be there to see what this treasure contains?

[Editor's note: John only has three questions for the Fest because I can answer question number 4 right now: YES.]

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## Editorial

In the 2334 editorial I lamented some of my computer woes. Of course those woes extend to software and the Internet. As you know, over the past two years or so we have ever so slowly inched our editorial capabilities into the new century. The service that we use to prepare and send the Gram is called MailChimp. You can look at their services etc at [mailchimp.com](http://mailchimp.com).

It was MailChimp that allowed our biggest breakthrough with the inclusion of images in the Gram. It also allows subscribe and unsubscribe services that are great and about which I want to talk in the near future. But today I want to tell you about something else. When I send out a Gram, I can monitor the rate at which you are opening the Gram. How in the world MailChimp knows if you have opened your Gram, I cannot imagine, but it does.

When I send a Gram it takes me up to a minute to sip my coffee and go to the MailChimp control center (I do not know what they call it, perhaps *chimpcenter* or some attempt at cute). Cute or not, it is cool. It shows how many of you have opened the new Gram. Within one minute at least two of you open your Gram! Thank you! Within 20 minutes about 50 have opened their Grams. Then it slows down. Most everyone who is going to open a Gram has done so in one day. The bad news is that the percentage that never opens their Gram is high. Way too high: 60%. The good news is that we have a nice target of subscribers to recruit into readers.

We should not only be able to learn some things from this, but also learn some actions that we can take.

We should be able to learn some things that we can and should do. I am not going to continue with this theme right now. Instead I will wait in the hope that some of you will sound off on the subject.

---

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Dear Gram,

Like Roger, I am pleased (excited really) to have the opportunity to see a set of MPC Series 701 fractionals at the Fest. I think that it is great that they will be on display during the bourse because that means that I will not have to wait as long to see the notes!

I also think that it is a good idea to have things to attract people to the bourse.

Harold

---

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**Fest auctioneer:** Dave Frank - dave@frankcomputers.com

**Fest yearbook editor and photographers:** Kris and Cuneyd Tolek - ctolek@yahoo.com

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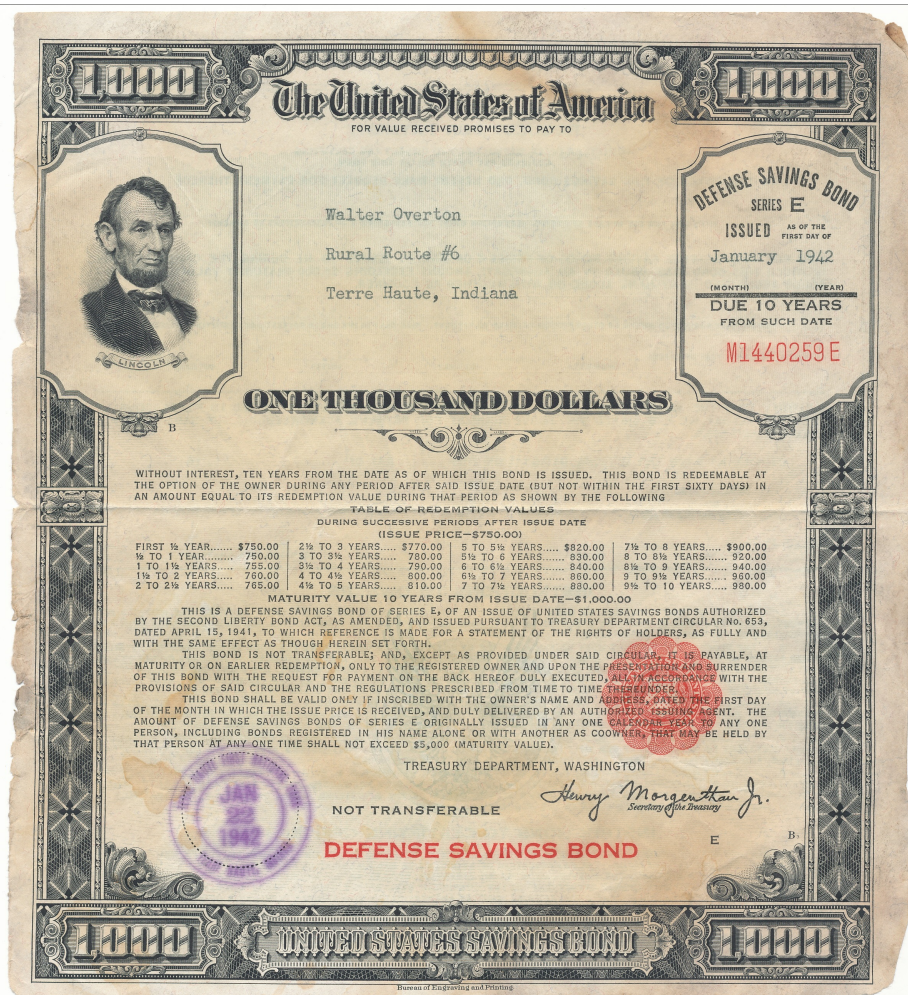
### **Junior ROTC Rifle Championship to Camp Perry**

The Civilian Marksmanship Program host many matches and championships every year. This year the CMP hosts the Junior ROTC National Championship at Camp Perry--home of the annual MPCFest marksmanship training and championship. The ROTC championship is the same weekend every year alternating between Camp Perry, Ohio and Anniston, Alabama. Because of the conflict MPCFest headquarters was offered a generous package to move the Fest to Anniston, Alabama, but the boss declined the offer.

Instead the Fest has moved the Thursday evening social event to the Erie Social Club, Marblehead, Ohio [see [www.m.facebook.com/ErieSocial/](http://www.m.facebook.com/ErieSocial/)]. The club has a variety of games as well as the only indoor professional grade shuffle board courts in the country. The club also features a full bar and deli.

The club is only two miles east of the Holiday Inn Express/Camp Leo May. Transportation will depart the hotel at 1700 and frequently thereafter.

**Rare bond featured**



A highlight among many at MPC Fest is the Sunday Smulczenski Scholarship auction. A highlight of this years sale is a rare \$1000 Defense bond. The bond was sold in January 1942 at about the time that defense bonds were being phased out in favor of war bonds. Defense bonds are overall much more scarce than war bonds and of course the high denominations are the best.

The catalog for the Smulczenski Scholarship Auction is ready for distribution. The catalog can be down loaded from Mail Chimp by using the link below. Collectors are encouraged to look it over and place absentee bids early. Not only do the earliest bids in the case of tie bids, late bids also are much more likely to be lost or otherwise not executed.

[https://gallery.mailchimp.com/10eb366ab80344a56657e0d5d/files/4e0a5bc3-d669-4d9c-9dec-79af4dbc5ee1/Fest\\_18\\_Auction\\_Catalog.pdf](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/10eb366ab80344a56657e0d5d/files/4e0a5bc3-d669-4d9c-9dec-79af4dbc5ee1/Fest_18_Auction_Catalog.pdf)

## Editorial

I was a little surprised, but very pleased with the number of responses that we received in response to my discussion of the issues regarding Gram distribution. Most of the responses were also substantive. This is wonderful. See letters below.

After I brought it up, you have made me think more about the issues. Disregarding the low opening issue, I have noticed another interesting aspect. Even though some readers open their Grams within a minute, after 48 hours, a significant number of subscribers who eventually will open and presumably read their Gram have not done so. This makes me worry that piling them up in those mailboxes will result in some not being read.

One idea that I am thinking about relating to the above is to change our approach and create a schedule for the Gram. I am thinking about Saturday noon and Wednesday 6pm as two times to publish the Gram. One of the advantages of this is to give everyone an even shot at the material for sale in our post exchange. I have some discussion point re the exchange. I will introduce those thoughts after we pursue the current topic a bit more.

Auctioneer Dave Frank has completed the catalog for the Smulczenski Scholarship Auction. I am fortunate, as Gram editor, I get to see it early. I am going to try to send the catalog out with this Gram. In the past (before Mail Chimp), we just dumped the text into the Gram and readers had to struggle to figure it out and figure it out they did, but it was bad.

In addition to the problems discussed above, we must always think about recruiting new Gramsters. Mail Chimp has an electronic way of adding subscribers. There is a button/link at the end of each Gram, but that is only useful if you have received a Gram. It took a while, but we finally figured out a way to use that link without having a Gram. Here it is. This link will allow a person to subscribe to the Gram. You can copy this link and include it in your own emails, sites and other places where we might find Gramsters.

[http://guide.us13.list-manage.com/subscribe?  
u=10eb366ab80344a56657e0d5d&id=58874b37e1](http://guide.us13.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=10eb366ab80344a56657e0d5d&id=58874b37e1)

We are excited that we will once again have a great auction at MPCFest. The catalog is now ready as you have read in the news section. The auction includes great material and is certain to raise a lot of money for our scholarship fund. We (the greater community) have sent approximately 40 students to the ANA Summer Seminar to learn about military numismatics. We can and should be proud.

I am also excited about the way that we are distributing the advance copies of the catalog. The catalog hangs out there at Mail Chimp just waiting to be picked up by you and your friends. That is another link that you can send around!

Just to make that point, here is the link to the catalog repeated!

[https://gallery.mailchimp.com/10eb366ab80344a56657e0d5d/files/4e0a5bc3-d669-4d9c-9dec-79af4dbc5ee1/Fest\\_18\\_Auction\\_Catalog.pdf](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/10eb366ab80344a56657e0d5d/files/4e0a5bc3-d669-4d9c-9dec-79af4dbc5ee1/Fest_18_Auction_Catalog.pdf)

Within a few days, we will send out a draft training schedule and battalion roster. All of this is very exciting and we will see many of you in a few days!

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## Letters to the editor

*Letters are encouraged on any subject related to military numismatics, MPCGram, and collecting in general. Opinions are those of the authors and letter are subject to editing. Thank you.*

Dear Gram,

Maybe the actual percentage of Gram non-openings are less than 60%. For my own part I have two email accounts, where I receive the Gram. We made that arrangement once, when I had some problems receiving the Gram. Normally when I see that I have received the Gram in both email accounts, I only open one of them and delete the other. If other Gramsters have more than one email address where they receive the Gram and they do like me, you will see many unopened Grams in your



statistics. But in reality the receiver has seen the given Gram through the other email address.

Am I off the mark here?

BTW Happy Fest!!

Flemming

Dear Flemming,

Can we count on your for the Fest next year or perhaps Fest 20?

Editor

Dear Editor,

I think the 60% un-read rate for the gram may have something to do with why I never receive it. A friend of mine has forwarded a couple copies lately, but I never get it from you. Do they indicate if it was bounced and not delivered?

For now, the second hand copy will have to do. Hope to someday get back on the good side of the internet gods.

Have a great FEST XVIII and hope to see you in KC for Memphis, it's closer to home anyway.

Jack 21

One problem with the gram is the inconsistency with which it is sent. At one time it went out three times per week. Then it dropped off to the point where a month would go by without one.

At one point six grams went out over two months that I never received. It was only when someone asked me a question about something that appeared that i learned a Gram had gone out. He then forwarded me the six i missed. It had become so intermittent that i stopped looking.

I did not receive the Gram with the notice about Bob Olson passing but did receive the next with comments.

Despite adjusting my whitelist more than once the Gram still goes to my spam folder. My spam folder lights up like any other to tell me there are unread messages. Not all of them do and some email programs do not even have an accessible spam folder.

Is it possible to get reciprocal advertising with other newsletters or organizations? IBNS send out an email everyday or week or whatever you set your preference to for posts on its forums. Is it possible to get a link to the Gram in there in exchange for an IBNS mention in the Gram? Or a link on the SPMC website?

Just spitballing.

JAD

Dear JAD,

You bring up some great points. Some we can work on others will be much more difficult, but we must try. Stay tuned, this discussion seems to be building.

editor

Dear Editor,

Cuneyd and I are of course excited about the Fest and please, everyone reserve a yearbook if you want one. They are being printed Tuesday, but that is not the reason that I am writing today. At first we were going to be there on Thursday night, but then we had some conflicts so we were not going to be able to be there until dinner Friday night. Then we say the great notice about the MPC Series 701 fractionals being on display during the bourse on Friday. We are changing everything so that we can be there to see those! This is extremely exciting! We will also then have a

chance to shop!

Kris Tolek

Dear Kris and Cuneyd,

Wonderful, of course we look forward to seeing you. There is an unconfirmed rumor that there will also be a Series 701 specimen book on the bourse floor. We will confirm this if and when we can. If readers have any information on this, please send.

editor

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### **2017**

**March 31 - April 2--MPCFest 18.** Make your reservations now. Call Kim at 419 732-7322.

Seelye Bourse List for Fest 18

Joe Boling (world notes, books, and more)  
Carlson Chambliss (books and MPC specimen notes)  
Jim Downey (material from the Bob Olson collection)  
Al Glaser (Fest notes, super bowl tickets)  
Harold Kroll (Nazi notes and more)  
Fred Schwan (war bonds and surprises)  
George Schweighofer [Currency Quest] (US federal paper money)  
David Seelye (wide array of military and world notes)  
Neil Shafer (wide array of world and military notes)  
Brian Witzke (notes from Adolf Witzke collection)

### **Fest Hotel Renovations**

Kim, commander of the Camp Leo May caserne, aka Holiday Inn Express Port Clinton and Catawba Island has announced the the hotel will be undergoing renovations the entire month of April 2017. The entire third floor will be closed. This drastically reduces barracks space for Fest 18. It is more important than ever that Festers and prospective Festers make there reservations. Call Kim at 419 732 7322. Clear communications are authorized.

**June 7-11** IPMS (formerly widely known as Memphis) Kansas City, MO. further details TBA.

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### **Surprise author reading at Fest**

Confirmation has just been received that a surprise famous author will visit the Fest on Saturday at approximately 2100 hrs to read from his best selling World War II Book: Killing the Rising Sun. Yes, cable television star and author Bill O'Riley will visit the Fest and read from his acclaimed book.

The visit has been in the work for several months, but part of the agreement was that the Fest could not do any advance publicity before the day of the event. When contacted, O'Riley was very interested in the work that Festers and the Fest do in preserving history. O'Riley is himself a collector although not a numismatist. The visit was possible because O'Riley is scheduled for a book tour appearance in nearby Cleveland today and one in Detroit tomorrow. Arrangements were made from him to stop at MPCFest on Saturday evening.

The estimated time of arrival is 2100 hrs, but other activities will be suspended upon his arrival. He will read from his book, take a few questions, and (of course) autograph copies of his best seller which his agent will have available for sale. Fest headquarters intends to surprise O'Riley with a copy of *The Comprehensive Catalog of Military Payment Certificates*.

Unfortunately, by agreement the reading will only be for registered Festers. Visitors will not be allowed.

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### **Editorial**

We are extremely excited about the announcement of Bill O'Riley's visit to Fest. We have had a wide variety of visitors and special speakers at the Fest. Every one has been special and the making of a legend. In a strange way that I cannot fully describe, the O'Riley announcement makes it easier for me to make the following painful announcement.

MPCFest XVIII underway at this very moment will be the last MPCFest. It was a great run. We had fun and fellowship for seventeen years, but the financial burden on Fest headquarters has been too much to sustain. We thank everyone who has ever attended a Fest or otherwise supported the effort.

We plan to continue publishing the MPCGram, but likely it will be necessary to double the current subscription rate.

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### **Letters to the editor**

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*MPCGram, and collecting in general. Opinions are those of the authors and letter are subject to editing. Thank you.*

Dear Gram,

I am pleased to confirm that I will be able to stop in at MPCFest on Saturday.

Bill

Dear Bill,

We are very excited about your visit. In addition to the reading and autographs you might be interested in our reenactment of a military poker game after your official visit.

editor

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### **Shafer Champion, Glaser Honored**

Activity at MPCFest 18 rose throughout the afternoon Saturday culminating in an evening of intense competition and awards.

In the collector national championship contest commonly known among Festers as March Madness, the final four players earned their positions in the early evening: Harold Kroll and Neil Shafer were paired in the first semi final match. Shafer was a two-time former champion. Kroll had previously advanced to the semi final. In the other semi final match, defending champion Fred Schwan was matched against retired MPCGram editor Roger Urce. The challenger took a one to nothing lead. Schwan was able to tie the match at 2-2 and correctly answer the final question to return to the final match for the third time (having won the championship in 2016).

Shafer and Schwan both played an intense final round. Shafer won the championship by narrowly beating Schwan to the bell for the right to first try at the final question:

What country increased the size of its World War II 5/- note? The answer of course is Southern Rhodesia.

Shafer was humble in victory. He is now a three-time Fest and national champion joining Jim Downey and Bill Myers as the only other three time champions.

In post match interviews, Shafer indicated that he would continue the tradition started by Downey and followed by Myers of retiring from competition after winning three times. Schwan stated in a post game interview that he did not want Shafer to retire instead wanting to have a rematch next year.

World War II and Military Numismatics recognizes outstanding service to the greater community with the Ray Toy award. The silver medal emblematic of the award was presented by 2016 recipient David Seelye to the 2017 recipient Al Glaser.

Glaser is a 17 time Fester, enthusiastic collector, and author of *Military Fest Certificates Remembered: a mystery in your hands*. He is the senior Fest first sergeant having served in that capacity for more than 15 years and longer than any Fest first sergeant.

### **C. Tolek receives first Olson award**

Presentations at MPCFest are called staff briefings. More than twenty eight staff briefings were conducted at Fest 18. Each year the MPCFest battalion recognizes the best briefing as voted by the battalion with an award named for recently departed collector Bob Olson.

Tolek's presentation was on the art and lore of Military Fest Certificate Series 151. The artist, David Schwan, was also in attendance. Larry Smulczenski and Bill Myers finished second and third respectively.

## **Robert Drew wins jewelry**

The final competition of MPCFest is a military poker game reenactment using MFC (military Fest certificates). The contest is keenly anticipated and hotly contested. Like many games in combat theaters around the world for many decades the game does not normally even start until late at night and of course continues until the wee hours. One important difference is the Fest players are not armed!

Robert Drew won the tournament and the right to wear the champion's bracelet. Second and third places went to Brad Schwan and Dick Dunn. Toy award winner Glaser (see above) finished in the dreaded fourth position.

In addition to the bracelet, the poker champion won an \$18,000MFC Fest war bond.

## **Counterfeits detected, conversion completed**

On Saturday afternoon at Fest 18 counterfeits of Series 151 MFC were found by Fest Secret Service agent Joe Boling. Duplicate serial numbers were also reported of Series 151. At deadline it was not clear if the counterfeits and duplicates were related.

A person of interest has been identified by the provost marshal by the name has not been released. An article 31 investigation is underway.

## **Surprise visitor electrifies Festers**

Hans Walter, 95 year old survivor of Nazi concentration camps and famous Operation Bernhard made a surprise third visit to MPCFest on Saturday afternoon. Mr. Walter has attended two previous Fests. Each time the results were the same--he electrified the crowd.

Even more than other collectors MPCFesters are interested in the famous counterfeiting operation because it was one of many World War II counterfeiting operations and by far the largest such operation in world history.

Mr. Walter's personal story is compelling. As previously (and exclusively) reported in your Gram, Mr. Walter was within minutes of being killed in a Nazi extermination camp when by an amazing string of events he was saved and put to work in the counterfeiting operation.

The surprise visit was orchestrated by Fester Danny Spungen and Hans' daughter Debby.

---

## **Editorial**

It is not likely to surprise anyone that from our perspective, MPCFest XVIII was a spectacular success. At every level, Festers were excited. Great staff briefings informed and entertained us. Competitions had us sitting on the edge of our chairs and leaning forward. Some interesting and potentially important research was completed or at least advanced. Some pieces were added to collections and, yes, bank accounts were supplemented or depleted.

Most importantly of all fellowship abounded. New friends were made, acquaintances renewed and old friends met. Even a few tears were shed. Fun was had by all.

It was an altogether great time. I added some treasurers to my collection and believe that most everyone did the same.

More news reports are necessary. We have not mentioned the bourse,

scholarship auction and some other activities.

I hope that Festers will share some of their thoughts, recollections, and highlights with us.

As usual, below is a link that you can (and should) send to collectors and other interested parties to subscribe to the Gram.

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Dear Gram,

I had a great time at the Fest. I look forward to Fest 20-1 (19). I do not know how, but I am sure that it will be even better than the best ever Fest 18.

Anytime, anywhere!

All Glaser,

Dear 1SG Glaser,

Thank you for that comment. I am sorry about this shortened letter section, but we needed to get the news out. We have some great letters and will have an expanded mail section next time.

Editor

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## 2017

**April ca 6-8** Michigan State Numismatic Society. Warren Michigan. Freelands, Schwans, Irick and other Festers will be in attendance. See Internet for detail.

**April** Central States Numismatic Society Convention, Chicago. Freelands, Jach, Schwans, Irick and other festers will be in attendance. See Internet and later Grams for more details.



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further details TBA.

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### Fest XVII Challenge Coins



by Harold Kroll

Did you examine your coins for anything unusual or differences? Upon a closer look I found there were a few things different. Two of the bronze coins have the common eagle with 12 stars on the obverse and the reverse commemorates the 75th anniversary of The Battle of Midway. Very nice design with plenty of graphics

The other two coins, bronze and silver is where the differences come into play. Neither one has mention of the fest on either side of the coins, this is a first to my recollection. Flipping the coin back and forth I found a stamping on the edge of the coin, \*\*\*\*\* MPC FEST XVIII \*\*\*\*\*, 12 stars for the original 12 festers and reference to Fest XVIII. Since the bronze coin was different, I checked the silver piece and it also had the edge stamping. Another one of those hidden touches you have to look for. The design of these two coins depicts a B24 bomber on the obverse which I thought was way cool and reverse has the Battle of Midway as the others. One thing you have to remember when getting your goodies for attending the fest, you have to examine all things very closely for the surprises you may find.

The 2017/Fest 18 challenge coin is the work of artist David Schwan. The editor has informed me that medals are available for purchase. See the editorial.

### Boss Loses Security Clearance

In an amazing twist, The Boss has lost her Fest security clearance in conjunction with the ongoing investigation relating to the theft of Fest property at Fest 18. It appears that The Boss may or may not have participated in the crime, but clearly participated in the cover-up. She not only did not cooperate in the investigation, but she actually

obstructed justice by diverting CID assets during the course of the investigation.

The criminal investigation continues. It has been expanded to include the circulation of counterfeits at the Fest. It seems likely that a single group is responsible for both criminal acts. It is not certain if the clearance action is subject to review before the next Fest.

Festers with information are encouraged to come forward at this time.

---

## Editorial

We continued to busy for several days after the Fest as you can imagine. Since then, Judy has been dealing with some illness so I am again way behind on the Gram and many other projects.

I hope that you liked Harold's lead article. It was important for more reasons than are apparent. Harold sent the article then followed up on the phone. I could not find the article.

After some back and forth, we realized that he had sent the article to MPCGram@yahoo.com. That is the address that we have used for the Gram since the start. Since I came back to the editor's chair many people started writing to my personal email fredschwan@yahoo.com. Additionally, I thought that I had set up the Gram address to forward incoming mail to my personal email. I guess that I received enough mail to reinforce my apparently wrong idea.

In the Gram inbox I have found lots of stuff that was intended for publication in the Gram. I am very sorry about this problem. I hope to be able to find and use everything. At least I am happy that we figured out some long standing mysteries.

I think that the best solution for the moment is to send Gram mail to MPCGram@yahoo.com although likely some things that go to fredschwan will also get into the Gram. Do not consider this to be a final decision. We will have to see how things go.

I hope that you like the 2017/Fest 18 challenge coin. I think that it is great. It is the work of numismatic artist David Schwan. We have decided to make the medal available to the greater numismatic (and other) community by sale. This is a somewhat controversial topic. At some point along the way, I offered the current challenge coin for sale. A Fest challenged me along the line that the challenge coin is supposed to be awarded for a good deed. There was another problem that is still in the too sensitive to discuss box. Still, I decided that as part of the overall Fest promotion and because we have such a great coin (medal) this year, that we really should offer them to the greater community.

So, we can offer them for sale at \$4 each plus \$1 shipping per order. Ultimately, I anticipate that we will also offer them on ebay. Part of the point of placing them there is that the sale will also include a long promotion for Fest 19. Of course in all cases, the supply is limited.

As always, thank you for everything.

---

## Letters to the editor

*Letters are encouraged on any subject related to military numismatics, MPCGram, and collecting in general. Opinions are those of the authors and letter are subject to editing. Thank you.*

Dear Gram:

As for how mailchimp knows who's opened the gram, they either use return receipts, or a hidden blank remote image file. Both methods are also used by email spammers to determine valid emails. Because of this, most email readers have a setting that will ignore return receipt requests, and many anti-virus programs will strip out any blank remote images in email before they are opened. This is most likely the main reason for 60% not showing up as being opened, I know I'm probably in that 60%, since I use both protections on all my email accounts.

Russ Walsh

Dear Russ,

Wow, it is really great to hear from you. You have been on the MIA list for a very long time! Thank you for the good observations. Hopefully, it will not be so long before we hear from you again and we would love to see you back at the Fest. At least you should consider coming to Fest 20 which will be among other things a Fest reunion.

Editor

Dear Gram,

I have been following the lead-up to and subsequent reports from MPCFest 2017. Sounds like you all had another great time. I must confess you almost made me cry when I read that this would be the last Fest, thinking after all these promises to myself that one year I would go, that I had missed my chance... then I checked the date you sent that report. Good one. I also wonder how many folks were looking forward to (or planning to skip) the poker game when they heard Mr. O'Reilly might be there.

I thought I'd share with you my latest numismatic adventures. My son David (the same who would be happy to purvey a bottle of Coca Cola and put a nice shine on your boots at the D-Day event) regularly visits our local coin shop with me and has acquired his own collection along the way. He found another lad at his school who collected coins and paper money, and the resulting trading flurry soon overtook the majority of his class. I had been looking for a way to productively volunteer at his school, so he and I created "The Legacy Knights Numismatic Society." We have monthly meetings during the school year, interspersed with optional activities such as trips to the coin shop, coin shows, or other local clubs' meetings. Our first meeting was 28 February and dealt with how to identify coins and currency. We've had guest speakers from the Dayton Kettering Coin Club come share their expertise with us; last month they shared how to handle and protect their collections, and this month another DKCC member will be presenting numismatic items of the American Civil War. For our last meeting for the year we hope to have an auction of several items that we have collected through donations. We are pursuing ANA recognition for our club, and encouraging the students to take advantage of the Coins For A's program to become ANA members themselves to help us get a club dues discount. We are holding steady at 13 student members, and I am thrilled with that number. Our membership is limited to LCA 3rd-6th grade students and their parents, but we refer other people to DKCC and the ANA.

David got his ANA membership before I did, so I figured it was time to join myself. I was happy to find the online digital versions of The Numismatist went as far back as June 2014, which featured your excellent article on Allied Military Currency.

We are planning to return to D-Day Conneaut this year. They are extending it back a day into Thursday (still through Saturday), so David



and I will have an extra day to sell. Our militaria partner decided we needed two 20x20 spaces this year so we should have plenty of display space of our own for Wartime Coins and Currency. If you would like to sell any books or other items again this year you are welcome to bring some if you will be attending, which I hope you will attend. Each year David and I look forward to the possibility that you might stop by and say hello. If you are ever coming through the Dayton-Xenia area during the school year, we'd love to set something up where you could meet up with the Legacy Knights Numismatic Society.

Best regards,

Dave N

Hello Readers!!

I recently purchased an interesting group of 59 Philippines Guerilla Currency, mostly Samar at a local coin show. But a few others are included. It will be available for sale at MPCFest 2018.

David E. Seelye

Dear Dave,

Well, this notice got caught up in the SNAFU mentioned in the editorial. Sorry.

Editor

---

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**June 7-11** IPMS (formerly widely known as Memphis) Kansas City, MO. further details TBA.

#### **2018**

**May 4-6** MPCFest 19. Holiday Inn Express, 50 NE Catawba Road, Port Clinton, OH 43452. Reservations call Kim at 419 732 7322. Chat or questions call Fred at 419 349 1872.

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*Do you have something for sale (or trade)? You can offer these items here in the Gram Exchange. Send your text and images (!) to the editor for inclusion in the Gram Exchange.*



Netherlands Min van Oorlog tokens, set of six, unc \$425.  
davideseelye@gmail.com. Free domestic postage.

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### New Fester



Ray Feller has recovered from her Fest 18 AWOL in a big way. at 0451 on the 24th she delivered into the world the next of the next generation Fester: Ramona Jude Feller McCloskey. All four Festers in the squad are doing well and rumored to be working on their presentations for Fest XIX.

### Fest XVIII Challenge Coins



by Bill Myers

I just read Harold Kroll's comments on the Fest challenge coins. When I got home I looked at my fest coins and I see the brass/gold colored

coins with the plane comes with a shiny and matte background. Then I looked at the design. Mine do not have the circle around the 75 years like the one in the Gram. What gives? Are there more varieties?

---

## **Editorial**

I think that I have a reputation of being hard headed. Of course I think that I am very open minded. Likely there is some truth in both opinions.

I like to receive criticism, suggestions and the like about the Gram, the Fest, the Summer Seminar and even about the various books.

Dan Freeland approached me at the Fest with an idea--at least part of an idea. He stated that the last hour or two of the current bourse schedule is mostly a waste. The business that is going to take place is finished by them. He was suggesting that we should do something else with that time. I agreed in principle, but could not think of what the better or new activity would be.

Before I tell you my twist on Dan's suggestion, you should try to think of ideas. I will also tell you before you get too far along that some of that time gets gainfully used. The dealers must tear down their booths and secure their materials. Then the hotel staff must set up Camp Leo May for the evening activity. New Fester training is conducted, company meetings are held and perhaps a nap or two are completed.

Still, Dan was right. There is a resource there that could (should) be better used. There is no chance that we could get March Madness or staff briefings started. That would not work.

Finally, it hit me. At about 1630 or 1645 we can have pay call in the mess hall or one of the hall ways. We do not have to worry about getting people to participate. Who is not looking forward to getting paid? We have had pay call at about 2230-2300 on Friday night. That is too late, but I have not been able to figure out how to fix it until now.

Early pay also put money into the hands of Festers so that they can spend it on bonds, lottery tickets, slot machine, poker entries and more. Unless you can find a flaw with this plan or suggest a better use of the time, we will try the early pay for Fest 19.

Thank you Dan.

---

## **Letters to the editor**

Dear Editor,

Please send me one of your most current Fest Coins. Let me know how you want payment. I usually use PayPal. Ever since the USS Midway came to San Diego, I collect most things Midway connected.

Thanks,

David Klinger

Dear Gram,

The challenge coin is very nice. David Schwan did a very good job designing it! And thanks for opening up sales of it to us collectors who can't make it to the Fest.

I would like to purchase one of them. I didn't see ordering instructions. How do we proceed?

Mike Schmidt

Dear Mike,

Thank you and you make a good point. If you would like to you PayPal use fredschwan@yahoo.com. Alternatively, you can send a check to Fred Schwan, 132 E. Second St, Port Clinton, OH 43452. Send your personal check, do not go to an extra expense of getting a money order.

Dear Editor

With only TWO ENGINES ..... Looks like a B-25 Bomber to me  
???????? NOT a B-24 .

Kevin Maloy

Dear Gram,

That look like a Dolittle B-25, not a B-24.

Herb Friedman

Guys,

Thank you. You took the bait! We will do almost anything here are Gram HQ to get you guys to write right.

In addition, here at the Gram we have a conservation of numbers policy. Because we called the bomber a B25 we needed to conserve a digit elsewhere and identified the challenge coin as being from Fest XVII. This is the first time that we have had a conservation effort that was cross numeral system. Quite a Fest first.

Editor

Excellent GRAM. And making the FEST XVIII challenge coin available is a great idea. I had 3 and have already presented them to others for good deeds. They have historical significance at several levels. That being said I would like to order 10 (ten) more. This would be \$40 plus shipping. If I may impose further, please mail ASAP.

Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead,

Warner

Warner,

Thank you for the order and good job for spreading the word (er, challenge coins), but be careful. Praise is a powerful weapon too seldom used.

editor

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Netherlands Min van Oorlog tokens, set of six, unc \$425.  
davideseeleye@gmail.com. Free domestic postage.



MPCFest XVIII challenge coin and Battle of Midway commemorative  
medal \$4 plus \$1 per order for shipping. For Paypal us  
fredschwan@yahoo.com. For snail mail write to the same address.

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## Valkenburg 2017

by Roger Urce

The Paper Money Fair Maastricht (Valkenburg) is always a good trip. My arrival was timed to give me two days at the pre-bourse, which this year was held in the show venue, the Polfermolen, as opposed to the crowded dining areas of the Hotel Park, where it had been held for a number of years. I was able to get a badge which allowed me early access to the pre-bourse, which saw approximately one quarter of the dealers set up tables.

This trip I wanted to fill in some of the blanks in a few collections, namely Bohemia and Monrovia, Slovakia Slovenia, notes that are not especially rare or expensive, but notes I just cannot find other than in Europe. Of course, I always look for other pieces. A half dozen holes were filled and I still had a couple of days to see what else I could find.

Dutch dealer Ed van den Brul always has two or three binders marked World War II, and I always stop by his table to take a look. While most of the items are common, there is usually a piece or two I do not have. This time was no exception and I found three Russian War bonds (see SB page 374): two denominations of 100 rubles one from 1943 and one from 1944 along with a 200 rubles' piece dated 1944. The all graded out XF and I was happy to add them to my collection.

While roaming around I came across a 50 franc issue used in the French occupation zone of Germany. I have an example of the ten franc



note and, since I like to complete sets, the fifty came home with me. It grades out in Fine (slabbed it might even be VF!)



My find of the show is the one gulden 1942-1943 Winterhulp note from The Netherlands. This came to me from another Dutch dealer, Jan Ruijs, whom I always make a point of seeing. Remembered lists WHN issues for 1940-1941 but nothing for 1942-1943. There are differences between the issues, for 42-43 the obligation is different as is the reverse layout. The paper is watermarked with widely spaced diagonal lines running from top right to lower left, and, as you see the paper is blue/green in color as opposed to the dark yellow indicated for the 40-41 issues. Most noticeable is the fact that the 42-43 piece is not a specimen. I would not classify my note as a discovery piece, since it would have made sense to issue WHN for all of the war years, much in the same way they were issued by Germany. I would think there was no information about this date available when the first edition was being prepared, and the second edition draft may already have updated information. Perhaps Fred/Joe can let us know.



What follows is not numismatic, but it is related to World War II and I

think it important to mention. While walking back to the hotel along the main street from the Polfermolen, US dealer Forest Barbieri pointed something out to me that I had never noticed in my visits to Valkenburg. Imbedded in the bricks in front of a few of the restaurants are brass pieces. The Jewish families who owned the homes (now restaurants) were all victims of the death camps and none survived to return to their homes. The brass pieces serve as a memorial to these victims and are inscribed with their names, dates of birth, date of capture and their date of death. Camp names are also listed. The practice, I am told, began in Germany.

### Series 541 Printing

by Fred Schwan

We are all familiar with the problems with quality of Series 541 MPC. Of course the series was printed by Tudor Press. Of course we assumed that Tudor obtained the contract from the BEP because it was the low bidder. Most of what we know about this situation was revealed when the contract was let for Series 591. Tudor was again the low bidder, but the firm was not awarded the contract because of the poor performance in the fulfillment of the printing contract for Series 541.

In working on the new edition of the MPC catalog, I found some information that I had copied at the BEP regarding the printing of Series 541/ On August 9, 1954 the contract for Series 541 was awarded to Tudor Press:

Here are the bids:

\$129,487.20 Tudor Press

\$200,170.24 Security Bank Note Company

\$244,266.88 Forbes Lithograph Manufacturing

Wow. That is quite a spread! An additional comment is made that a recent visit was made to the Tudor plant and it was found to possess the necessary production equipment to satisfactorily fulfill all provisions of the proposed contract and was in a position to comply with all security regulations in the specifications.

I am entering these figures in the book for posterity so to speak.

I look forward very much to sharing more research in the Gram in the next few weeks, but I also hope that Gramsters will step forward to suggestions, ideas, criticisms etc for the new book. Please let us hear from you.

---

### Editorial

I made a mistake. How can it be? At the Fest we more or less decided that Fest XIX will be the first weekend in May 2018 and I dutifully placed that date in the Gram calendar, but I did not announce it here in the editorial or news section of the Gram. It is important that we give one last chance for someone to cry out that we have made some sort of terrible mistake in scheduling. Now is that chance. Shout out now.

In addition, if you do not see a conflict now, tell your family the Fest dates. You would hate to miss your daughter's wedding!!

In a week or so Kim will make the dates final and you can start reserving for Fest XIX as amazing as that seems.



---

## Letters to the editor

Letters are welcome on a wide variety of topics relating to military numismatics. We run most mail received, but it might be late and it might be edited a bit. Thank you for your mail.

Dear Editor,

I received the Fest Coin in record short time. I really like it. I expected to wait the usual several months that it took in the past when dealing with this publisher and editor. I also appreciated the eight very interesting and collectible stamps which were used on the envelope.

I wondered if you determined how many varieties of the coin exist, including various metals?

I noticed that the coin I received did not look like brass/bronze, so I did a chemical field test on it and discovered that it is pure 24k Au !!! A stray blank must have been introduced into your production run - unless you did it on purpose? In any case it's my good fortune.

Thanks,  
David K.

Dear Dave,

Oops. You are correct. We sent the gold coin by mistake. Please send it right back and we will send you a bronze one.

Editor

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**June** ANA Summer Seminar, Colorado Springs, June details TBA.

**July** ANA convention aka World's Fair of Money, Denver Colorado,

### 2018

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Germany 1948 2 Marks Pick 3a 1st printing. EF \$175. The printing information will be in the New edition of WW2 Remembered. [davideseelye@gmail.com](mailto:davideseelye@gmail.com). Free domestic postage.



MPCFest XVIII challenge coin and Battle of Midway commemorative medal \$4 plus \$1 per order for shipping. For Paypal us [fredschwan@yahoo.com](mailto:fredschwan@yahoo.com). For snail mail write to the same address.

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### **Boling-Schwan to Honored**

The Society of Paper Money Collectors have announced the selection of Joe Boling and Fred Schwan to be installed in the 2017 class of the society's hall of fame. Also in the 2017 class are past SPMC president and paper money promoter Judith Murphy, and two deceased collectors: Chuck O'Donnell and Daniel Valentine.

Of course Boling and Schwan are well known as authors of *World War II Remembered*, *Festers*, *Gramsters* and instructors of the ANA Summer Seminar military numismatics class.

Daniel Valentine and Church O'Donnell were early authors of paper money books.

### **Trip Report**

by Fred Schwan

I had a great day May 20th at a very interesting numismatic event. I shopped for a few hours, saw some great World War II exhibits and talked to some really advanced collectors. The event was in Findlay, Ohio, but it probably was not anything like what you are thinking.

It was a militaria show. The folks in Findlay have had this great event a few years longer than we have had the MPCFest.

Although I did not spend a lot of money--especially by the standards of a "normal" paper money (or even coin) show, I did find some interesting things. I will tell you about one now and will share many more in coming weeks. I do not think that I found anything requiring a new listing in *Remembered* or the MPC book, but I did find some things that will find their way into those books.



This great picture of a finance office was in a group of photographs that had been taken out of a photo album. Some of the photos have the tell-tale residue of black album pages on the back. Fortunately, many of the photo also have some identification. Most of these identify a person in the photo by first name. That is not very useful, but a few have dates-1951-2. Obviously, this is very helpful and the context of the photos indicate that the photos were taken in Korea. That is also what the seller claimed.

The seller marked the envelope as 25 photographs from Korea at one price (see below). I went through the photos looking for something that we could use. Immediately, I was interested because many of the photos were of artillery pieces and positions. At an old red leg they really interested me. Heck most of the artillery shown was of 105mm. That is my favorite. Perhaps someday I will tell you why that is.

Near the end of the search, I found this great photo. Finance office in Korea! I am going to insert this photo in the Series 481 section of the forthcoming MPC book based upon the dates and context.

Look carefully at the image. To the right of the photograph is some more text. I cannot make it out. I will try to remember to take it to Memphis (KC) in order to let Joe have a look at it. He is great at reading such things.

I have some other treasures from the event, I hope to tell you about them in future Grams.

## Editorial

Happy Memorial Day, We here at the Gram extend to all of you warm greetings for this Memorial Day. We know that you are very special readers compared to the population at large. We know that you will take some time to think about the meaning of the day besides cooking out.

Last week the meaning of the day delivered to local residents here with some electrifying news, but first some background. I went to Bataan Dlementary School here in Port Clinton. I can clearly remember asking my mother about that strange name Bataan. The school had just been built and I attended school there on the very first day.

Mom told me about the Bataan death march. She told me in very simple terms about Company C of the 192 Tank Regiment. It was the local reserve company that had deployed to the Philippines in 1941 and had made the Bataan March. She also told me about the neighbor who was known to me and who had been on the march. I went away from that little meeting with my mother confident that Company C had won the



war for us.

Over the years (decades), I of course learned much more about Company C and while I no longer think that Company C won the war, I and most of my fellow long-term local residents have grown in our respect for those men of Company C.

From recollection 35 men went to the Philippines and 10 returned. I personally knew two of them. One was a scout leader. The other was the father of a girl whom I dated in high school. Both of those men continue to inspire me.

No for the amazing news. The eleventh soldier from Company C is coming home. The remains of John Kovach, Jr. have been identified and are being returned. His funeral is planned for July 10. I do not think that I will be able to attend, but if I cannot, I hope that we can get a report and pictures from local Fester Bill Gordon.

---

## Letters to the editor

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Dear Gram,

At the 2017 Georgia Numismatic Association Annual Coin Show, April 21-23, the Numismatic Poet Society offered a special prize of a Proof Silver Eagle for the best original poem included in an educational exhibit. We had one exhibit with a very nice numismatic poem. The title of that exhibit was "WWII OPA Tokens." This exhibit and poem was a father and son collaboration by Clay and Eason Barrineau. I have attached photos of the exhibit case and a copy of the poem. I thought that other readers of the MPCGram might like to see both of them. For information on the Georgia Numismatic Association, contact Greg Ison at [gison@gamoney.org](mailto:gison@gamoney.org). For information about the Numismatic Poets Association, contact John Phipps at [phippsjo2002@yahoo.com](mailto:phippsjo2002@yahoo.com).

Thanks,

John Phipps

Dear Gram,

In the April issue of *Smithsonian* (page 36) there is a fascinating story about the use of the Liberty Bell for WWI Liberty Bond fund raising efforts. I was unaware of this project and found it a great article for both bond collectors and railroad buffs.

Fester John Watta

Dear Gram and Battalion HQ.

Please send the following "MPCFest XVIII challenge coin and Battle of Midway commemorative medal \$4 plus \$1 per order for shipping" as listed in the Gram;

1 - Satin Brass variety without 75 years circled and 1 - variety with the 75 years circled.

Since you made no mention of being able to pick and choose varieties I am taking the liberty to choose varieties that were kept hidden from Festers during the FEST.

I will paypal \$9 once I receive confirmation the order will be filled.

Regards,  
1st Sgt. Glaser, A company



Dear First Sergeant,

Thank you for writing.

Now you have us confused. I guess that will not be a surprise to Gramsters (or Festers) out there. The Fext XVIII challenge coins commemorating the 75th anniversary of WWII and especially the Battle of Midway did not have a circle around the 75 on the reverse of the medal. The circle was on an earlier stage of the design. As far as we know, no examples with the circle were struck, but you sent a convincing image with the circle so we are unsure. It is hard to know for sure what does on late at night at Great Lakes Mint. A really interesting question is, which do you like better? With or without the circle.

You will find a clarified listing in the PX below.

Editor

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to Joe and Fred on being part of the 2017 Class of the SPMC Hall of Fame.

Dan Freeland

---

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there should be something of special interest to collectors of military numismatic items. We will be happy to list non traditional events if they meet the special interest criteria.

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MPCFest XVIII challenge coin and Battle of Midway commemorative

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## **MPC GRAM STAFF & INFO**

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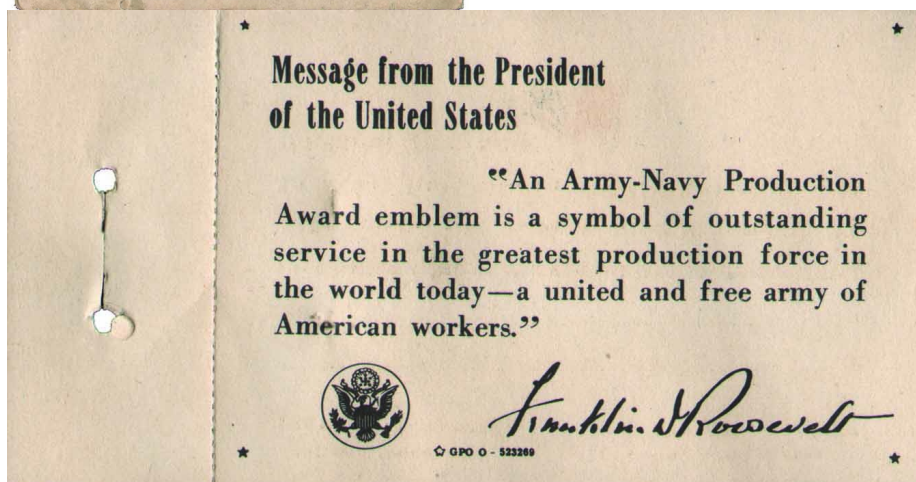


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### Army-Navy E Award Stuff



by Fred Schwan

I am not certain when I started collecting Army-Navy E (ANE) award stuff. Sure, it is all great World War II material and often you find emblems for the ANE stuff included in war bond advertising. Since I avidly collect the bonds, it is probably this connection that got me



started. I do not often mention this little specialty of mine here in the Gram because of the requirement for numismatic content and there is not really much of that associated with the ANE award program.

The most common items found are silver pins in the shape of the ANE award program emblem. Though silver and mostly struck, it is still a bit of a stretch to call them numismatic. The one real hook is the three inch medal that was created for some (really only a very few) of the companies.



The only one of these medals that you will find is for the Curtis Wright Corporation. These medals are really common, but it has not always been that way. Before the Internet, they were really hard to find.

The first one that I found for my collection came from a grouchy dealer in aviation artifacts. At the time I was seriously collecting aviation stocks and bonds. I do not know how I found this fellow, but he put out a very interesting list and I bought a few nice certificates from him.

Then in one of his lists he had one of these Curtis Wright medals and, of course, he wanted what I considered to be a very high price for it. I agonized. Then I thought about it and agonized some more. I cannot remember all of the details, but he would not accept calls and had a bunch of other real strange policies. Of course, you know that I could not resist and I bought it. I suppose that I am happy that I did because it helped keep me interested. You also know from the way the story is going that they are much cheaper now on ebay. Yep.



Eventually lightening struck. On ebay I found the illustrated Tacoma

Boat Builders medal. It is clearly in the style of the Curtis-Wright medal. The situation with the Tacoma medal was quite different from the Wright medal. The opposite in fact. This time the seller put it up with a very low starting price (but no buy it now). I put in a serious bid. Serious and in big. I always say that there is no good experience like your own. I had never seen anything except the Wright medal so I wanted to own this one and I do! I am sure that my bid was to the great surprise of the underbidder and to the delight of the seller, but it came home.

All of this is just introduction to the item that I found at the militaria show. Shown above are examples of the card that the employee pin was attached to with a message from President Roosevelt and the envelope the the carded pin came in. These cards are reasonably common. The envelopes are not.

I found them (with two pins) in a pile of stuff in a display case. When the seller was asked what he wanted for the group, he responded that oh there were more pins in the case. Then he dug around to find them. I wanted to should that I did not want the darn pins because they are dirt common, but that I wanted the ultra rare torn envelope. Somehow I restrained myself.

Finally I turned down the other pins (and a pith helmet and some other items) and took my prize.

## **Editorial**

Hopefully, you recall that I really like throw away items. The above report on the Army-Navy E award envelope. That is really the story of a throw away item. On of the interesting things about such items is that we often do not know of their existence until we find one.

In MPC (and other paper money arenas) straps and end labels are among the best known throwaways. On the rarity scale both are relatively common. Well, at least the straps are. The end labels are less so. I have one for AM francs--it took me years to pry it from the prior owner. I do not know of any others.

I know of two labels from war bond packaging. Those are great items. I am trying to pry one of those away (start low, in this case try for one).

MPC checks (and other types too) are usually thrown away after their mission is complete. I mention that here because of the great check send by Donn Cuson and shown below in the letters section.

Throw aways. I love them.

As you know, I am way behind. You have not had a Gram in more than two weeks. I let the important anniversaries of D-Day and Battle of Midway slip by not to mention the run up to MEMPHIS. I have two great articles on hand and even some more good stuff for sale. No excuse, sir. A few problems, yes. Excuses, no.

---

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Dear Gram,

The text on the right consists of three words: one on top & two on the bottom. The bottom two words are Processing Division. I can not make out the word on the top (my best guess is Cashier).

Ken Berger

Dear Gram,

The text in the upper right of that photo, appears to read (to the best of my ability) 'CASH/CASHIER PROCESSING DIVISION'

I am so happy to finally get the MPCGram.

Best,

CR Wallace

Dear Sir,

I believe that this letter from you is in response to your very first Gram!  
Welcome aboard and we look forward to seeing you at Fest XIX!

Editor

Dear Gram,

*The words over the Finance Office photo are Cashier at the top and Processing Division under it.*

Note: I am working on the 3rd Edition of my *French Southeast Asia Coins & Currency* catalog. It will likely be printed in early 2018. My currently available catalogs can be seen at [www.wizardcoinsupply.com](http://www.wizardcoinsupply.com) after typing "Daniel" in their Search.

Contact Daryl Spelbring at hottub4@aol.com for BIC, DRVN & RVN paper money from the Nguyen Xuan Son Collection.

Howard

Dear Howard,

We will be excited to have you release your newest book at the Fest!  
That would be great. You can bring Daryl along with you!

Editor

Dear Gram,

Looks like the sign behind the lister bag reads "Cashier Processing Division"

Ray Bows

**AMERICAN EXPRESS MILITARY PAYMENT CERTIFICATE CHECK  
OKINAWA  
1950'S**

<small>PTD. IN U.S.A.</small> CK. NO. _____ DATE _____ 195____ TO _____ FOR _____ <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td style="width: 50%;"><small>BAL. BRO'T FOR D.</small></td><td style="width: 50%; text-align: right;">\$</td></tr><tr><td><small>AM'T. DEPOSITED</small></td><td></td></tr><tr><td><small>TOTAL</small></td><td></td></tr><tr><td><small>AM'T. THIS CHECK</small></td><td></td></tr><tr><td><small>BAL. CAN'D. FOR D.</small></td><td></td></tr></table> <small>E-3003 1/50</small>	<small>BAL. BRO'T FOR D.</small>	\$	<small>AM'T. DEPOSITED</small>		<small>TOTAL</small>		<small>AM'T. THIS CHECK</small>		<small>BAL. CAN'D. FOR D.</small>		<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"><div><small>AMERICAN EXPRESS</small></div><div>No. _____ OKINAWA _____ 195____ ACCOUNT No. <b>4483</b></div></div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"><b>THE AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY, INC.</b> <small>OKINAWA BRANCH</small></div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;">((( PAY AGAINST THIS ORDER IN MILITARY PAYMENT CERTIFICATES )))</div> <div style="margin-top: 20px;">TO _____ \$ _____</div> <div style="margin-top: 20px;">DOLLARS</div> <div style="margin-top: 20px;"><b>NON-NEGOTIABLE</b> <small>PAYABLE ONLY IN MILITARY PAYMENT CERTIFICATES IN OKINAWA</small></div>
<small>BAL. BRO'T FOR D.</small>	\$										
<small>AM'T. DEPOSITED</small>											
<small>TOTAL</small>											
<small>AM'T. THIS CHECK</small>											
<small>BAL. CAN'D. FOR D.</small>											



**AMERICAN EXPRESS OFFICE AT SUKIRAN ARMY BASE OKINAWA 1954-55**

Dear Editor,

Saw the latest Gram and the photo of the finance office in Korea, It reminded me of a MPC check that I have from Okinawa in the 1950's. Here is a photo of the check and a photo of the military bank on Okinawa which issued it.

Donn Cuson

Dear Donn,

Wow, these are great images. I love them both and I assume your permission to put them both in the forthcoming MPC5.

In my opinion, MPC checks are one of the greatly neglected areas of MPC collecting and pictures of MBFs (military banking facilities) are hard to find. Heck, folks just did not take many pictures of their MBFs.

Thanks a million for sending the images.

Editor

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### Alan York Collection Part I



by Steve Feller

A small ad in *Coin World* had the magic name of Alan York and the fact that his collection would be sold May 19. A little-known to numismatics company named Roland Auctions on the Lower East Side of Manhattan was to auction part of a world class collection of camp notes. I had seen photocopies in thick binders in the early 1980s on the outpart of Long Island and thus knew what that name meant.

A visit to the website took my breadth away. Thousands of camp notes and coins were for sale but there were just hundreds of lots. The auction was overwhelming.

There was a lot of Sefton Internment Camp notes from the Isle of Man, seven in total. That is seven more than I had seen at auction for over 40 years. Pam West had recorded but a few known in her new book on the Isle of Man. Then there was a lot of the rare Australian Camp 8 Hay "Hut notes." This was a complete booklet of 12 uncirculated notes! Then there were hundreds of Lodz ghetto notes and talons--or perhaps thousands. Then there were tens of Auschwitz notes, then there were the very rare Mathausen notes, and then rare Dutch camp notes, and then multiple Red Cross sheets of Theresienstadt parcel stamps, and then a very rare Sokolka 0.91 RM note, and on and on.

The estimates were pitifully low.

I called Ray and told her about the auction. I called another person, a

good friend who is a strong collector of camp money. He knew about Roland and had been aware of a previous sale of Alan York material and he had been promised he would be notified when the rest of the collection was to be sold. However, that didn't happen...

We anxiously awaited the day of the sale. As it happened I had a cardiologist appointment the same day and as it turned out at the crucial time of the best lots. I was at the doctor's office to have a new pacemaker checked out. I was watching the clock in the exam room and my phone which had the auction app on it, my heart was being tested, the auction lot of Sefton notes was coming and....More in part 2.



by Bill Myers

A MPC mini-fest was held at the Long Beach Expo 10 June 2017. Long-lost fester Doug Bell was there along with Ed Beaman and Bill & Kathy Myers. Some time was spent catching up and acquisitions examined.

A Series 151 \$50 note was validated with an individually numbered stamp. The stamp featured a photograph of Fort MacArthur which is next to Long Beach in San Pedro. The base was named after Arthur MacArthur, Douglas MacArthur's father. The photograph shows the costal defense gun emplacements in place in during World War II. 18 notes were printed and 4 distributed.

## Editorial

Did you notice a format innovation in number 2343? An image and text were side by side. Kind of cut and certainly useful for some needs. The most interesting part is that I have no idea of how that layout happened. I was working along as I had in the past. When I looked back, we had this two column layout with the image. Darned if I know.

I just got back from Memphis (Kansas). I for one had a really great time. Of course I over spent in many ways. I also messed up the accommodations and ground transportation, but there was a silver lining in the latter.

Steve Feller and I went to the World War I Memorial and Museum on Friday afternoon. That is a spectacular place. Not a lot of numismatics, but some, and it is just a great place. I hope to share more with you on the visit, but for now let it suffice to say that it is a really great place. Next year I will plan an extra day in Memphis (Kansas) tor the museum. Back to the transportation. We finished late at the museum, it was hot, and we were tired so I used my Uber app. I was an Uber virgin. It was a great experience. I was pretty much of an app virgin too.

Now back to the matter of an extra day next year. I will spend an extra day in Memphis (Kansas) if the show is in (ok, I will say it) Kansas City

next year. Lyn Knight announced publically that the facility that was used this year will not be available in June next year and that he is working hard on a plan. I for one thought that Kansas City was great in just about every way. Furthermore, the facility was also great. It is a shame that the facility will not be available next year, but I encourage Lyn to find somewhere else in KC to have the show in early June. I think that it would be a serious mistake to move the date very far from the traditional/early June date.

---

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Fred and Joe--

"Good on ya" both. That is a heck of a lifetime award.

Congratulations. You both know that one of my main complaints about the ANA is that it is really a coin club and should have been named the American Coin Association. I sort of have the same feeling about SPMC although I belong to both. The Society of Paper Money Collectors is really The Society of U.S. Paper Money Collectors. Yes, I know that MPC belongs in that category but how many references to MPC or foreign notes other than those written by Schwan/Boling have you seen in the Paper Money bimonthly in the last many years. And yes again, it's because the rest of us don't submit anything for publication. But I digress-- What I am trying to say is that, you two have "broken through glass ceiling" and truly deserve this honor, our applause and sincere congratulations. I salute you. ---Ski

Dear Ski,

Thank you very much for your kind words. We were humbled by the award. Within the military numismatics community, I have heard your criticisms before (including from you!). While I cannot completely disagree, let me throw out some other ideas.

You are certainly correct, that it is hard to throw stones when not contributing and I am happy that you are a member of both (great) organizations. First, regarding the ANA. I understand your comment that it is a coin organization. Perhaps it is, but in my opinion our little community gets more support and recognition than we are due based on just about any measure. The situation is similar with SPMC. One really interesting thing is that Joe and I were recruited by the SPMC to write our current column and by the ANA to teach the military numismatics Summer seminar. I think that it speaks highly of the leadership of the two organizations that they sought out our little speciality and gave us important opportunities.

Perhaps the biggest measure implied by your letter is that we should do more. That is certainly true. We have the most wonderful sector of numismatics we need to beat the drum even louder.

I welcome other thoughts.

Editor

---



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## Armistice Day

by Fred Schwan

The Great War later known as World War I ended today 99 years ago. The peace treaty was not signed until the next year, but the shooting stopped on November 11, 1917. The war generated a great array of numismatic items. There were no issues comparable to Allied military currency or Japanese invasion money (JIM), but there certainly were interesting paper money issues.



The two numbered wars had war bond issues that are more or less comparable bond issues. The World War I issues were called Liberty Loan bonds. These were not the first bonds issued to finance American wars, but they are the most collectible and they are quite similar in complexity and variety.

World War I had a huge and fascinating array of commemorative, political and souvenir medals. Each of these categories can be collected as an independent speciality. Then of course there were unique military award medals for both.



World War I provided the very name for (numismatic) trench art but



World War II seems to have had more coin trench art and much more paper money trench art (think short snorter). One significant and interesting differences between the coin items created during the wars is those for World War I were dominated by identification tags and substitutes there off. I hope to offer some coverage of these items in the future. The beautiful identification bracelet above is made from a coin. The image is courtesy of Judy Waugh (aka Trench Art Judy).



Doug Bell, Bill Myers and Ed Beam take a break at a numismatic event.

## Editorial

Veteran's Day is certainly a special day for Gramsters. I am sure that I can speak for readers who are not veterans to say thank you to every veteran who is a reader, every veteran that you might know and the veterans whom we have not yet met.

Our collecting interests are unique and remarkable. They are inextricably intertwined with the veteran experience. Most of our collections are tributes to veterans. In keeping with the respect that we have for veterans, the MPC Gram is numbered from Veteran's Day. The Gram series advances each Veteran's Day. This is the first Gram of Series 19. Can that be true? Nineteen years? There is no getting around it I suppose. The idea for this numbering scheme was suggested by collector Brad Peacock many years ago. Thank you for that idea, Brad.

In the tradition of laundry soap, toothpaste, and razor blade marketing, I thought about calling this the New MPCGram because of the long delay since the last Gram. This has probably been the longest break in Gram publication since the first issue 19 years ago. I am sorry about that. I am sorry to have let you down. There really is no excuse. It is entirely a personal failing on my part. We have little option other than to extend all subscriptions. Feeling particularly generous we are extending all subscriptions through Series 50!

Many of you have reached out to me over the past few (more actually) months to inquire about my well being and to offer encouragement. David Seelye and Harold Kroll were the most consistent and encouraging. They carefully avoided complaining while encouraging me.



Thank you all.

Having made my confession, I must tell you that I need your help to get the Gram back to its former greatness. Mostly we need submissions of articles, news items, commentaries, and letters. Send them to my personal email address: fredschwan@yahoo.com.

### **Letters to the editor**

Letters are welcome on a wide variety of topics relating to military numismatics. We run most mail received, but it might be late and it might be edited a bit. Thank you for your mail.

Dear Gram,

Surprise to some of you! We sold our house on the Chesapeake Bay but still have the condo in McLean, Virginia.

Phung and I are now living in our new home in Florida. (Port Saint Lucie). We will be driving up to the McLean condo 2-3 times a year for medical, dental and legal appointments. Someday we will arrange to have all of them down here but right now we are not in the mood to change. When we do change, we will sell the McLean condo but we also like to fly out of Dulles because it has one flight to Narita and the next stop is Saigon.

We now have Florida driver's licenses, voting cards, fishing licenses and new Florida plate on my Honda CRV but not yet with SE Asia on it. We are still unpacking and even yesterday have moved the furniture around. We gave away most of our furniture from the Bay House to relatives and friends so we are buying new down here. We have a new master bedroom but have not yet finished the two guest bedrooms. We do not expect to get completely settled until sometime around mid-2018.

We will be driving north on November 19 to the McLean condo to be there for medical appointments and to prepare for our next trip to Viet Nam and SE Asia. I will be flying out on Dec 3 and Phung will go on Dec 5. We like to have separate flights in case something happens. While over there we will be visiting Hanoi and some other cities in Viet Nam and Vientiane. I will be going to Phnom Penh and Bangkok alone because Phung does not particularly like those cities, but she does plan to come during the below event in 2018. We will be returning to the McLean condo in early February and hang out there until we have all of our tax paperwork then drive down to Florida.

We will not be able to make the next FUN Show in January but after this show, we will always be over in Viet Nam and SE Asia during the October-December timeframe. One of my tasks down here in Florida is to visit and talk at every numismatic and philatelic group in Florida. I want to find those collectors here in Florida who are interested in my stuff but also to promote FUN and all of my other societies and groups.

I am also working on having four meetings/talks at a very major philatelic event in Bangkok from November 28 to December 3, 2018. The four groups are Society of Indo-China Philatelics, Oriental Numismatic Society, The Postal Order Society, and the International Bank Note Society. I will have one room for four hours. My usual format is the first 15-20 minutes where everyone introduces themselves and talks about what they collect, research and or write about, then give a talk for 40-45 minutes about the postal financial instruments (paper and tokens) of French Cochinchina/Indochina, Cambodia, Lao and Viet Nam. But if any members from the four groups wants to talk, I will let them do it instead of myself.

I have exchanged emails with many members of the above societies who live in South, Southeast and East Asia who want a meeting in Asia. The Thailand 2018 World Stamp Exhibition combined with the 1st

Thailand International Expo offered us an opportunity. The principals approved the meetings/talks and they have offered 15 exhibit cases. They are vertical philatelic exhibit cases. The groups will also be in the program and I have acquired approval from all four groups to display their logo's in the program. For those of you who will attend this event, this could be an opportunity to also visit Viet Nam before or after this event.

That is all for now. Please spread the word about the above so we can get a good crowd there.

Howard Daniel

Dear Howard,

Thank you for the interesting update. We look forward to reading (and reporting) about meetings in Asia. We also look forward to seeing you at Fest 19!

edior

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Series 1944 50 marks Forbes Printing Replacement VF-EF \$500.00.



MPCFest XVIII challenge coin and Battle of Midway commemorative medal \$4 plus \$1 per order for shipping. While supplies last, we will send one bright finish and one matte finish for \$9. Because these are challenge coins, they were issued at Fest XVIII for deeds well done. To place an order you must promise to perform a good deed as part of your purchase. A classic and appropriate good deed would be to show your challenge coin to a non collector to introduce them to a whole new field. Another great good deed is to thank a veteran for her/his service. We are sure that you do this regularly, so in your mind thank one on behalf of the Fest or even tell the person that you are thinking them on behalf of a strange, but keen group. Please do not use snail mail. For Paypal use fredschwan@yahoo.com. For snail mail write to the same address.

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## The (Non-)Replacement Notes of Manchukuo

Kazuya Fujita and Joseph E. Boling



### Introduction

In *World War II Remembered* by Fred Schwan and Joseph Boling, replacement notes for banknotes issued by the Japanese Empire are extensively cataloged. The most readily identifiable have been those notes with seven digit serial numbers (Philippine Rizal monument series, post-1941 issues of Manchukuo) for which a leading 1 was used for replacements. Starting with Schwan and Boling's earlier (1978) work, *World War II Military Currency*, they postulated that since Bank of Japan-

issued notes were printed, by law, with 900,000 notes/block, serial numbers with a leading-9, a few of which had been observed, were replacements. Thus in World War II Remembered, other catalogs, and the collecting community, this has been assumed to be a fact. In the case of the Central Bank of Manchou (Manchukuo), this was supported by Article 4 of the "Format and Production of the Currency Issued by the Central Bank of Manchou and Matters of the Exchange and Cancellation of Damaged Currency" (hereafter "Format...") of July 2, 1932 (decree no. 46), that stated that there shall be 900,000 notes per block. In addition, since Yoshiharu Ohashi stated in his seminal 1957 work on Japanese banknotes that on July 26, 1941, it was decided that there should be one million notes/block, this has been presumed to date the changeover to the seven-digit serial numbers and leading-1 replacements.

However, we now have a combination of documentary and supporting statistical evidence that indicate that in fact the leading-9 serial numbers are NOT replacements.

#### Documentary Evidence

The initial version (decree 46; July 2, 1932) of the "Format...", stated that "the notes issued by the Central Bank of Manchou shall have 900,000 notes per block." However, a note to this in the Bank of Japan's Japanese Currency Pictorial (Zuroku Nihon no Kahei) states that the number of notes/block was "changed in September, 1932, to 1,000,000 by decree 83" (September 10, 1932). In June, 1941, the "Format..." was further revised by adding a clause allowing the Minister of the Department of the Economy to change the numbering of notes. Because the text used in 1941 stated 1,000,000 notes/block, Ohashi assumed that the change in notes/block occurred in 1941. However, that change had truly been made in 1932 as is documented in the 1938 Collected Finance Related Regulations of Manchukuo, in which the "Format..." is given with 1,000,000 notes/block, with a note referencing the original version as stating 900,000 notes/block. Thus, the 1941 revision added only the clause concerning the ability of the economy minister to change the format of the serial numbering; it did NOT change the number of notes per block, as that had already been done in 1932. The numbering format was changed immediately on the 5 chiao (dispensing serials), and presumably soon thereafter on the other denominations to seven digit serials.

This raises the question of whether the "Format..." was amended by decree 83 before or after the change in numbering actually occurred; that is, was decree 83 a directive to make the change or was it a "correction" because operationally it was already being done that way? Unfortunately we have no clear answer to this.

Based on the quantities printed of these notes in 1932 and their timing, published in the Centennial History of the Ministry of Finance Printing Office (1974), only the 5 chiao was definitely in production before September 10 when decree 83 was issued. Thus, it is possible that some low blocks of the 5 chiao were printed at 900,000/block. If decree 83 was a directive, the same may be true for the very lowest blocks of the 1 and 10 yuan which started production in September to October; no other denominations were yet in production. We have recorded a block (3) 5 chiao with a serial of 974013 which, as is suggested by the statistical analysis below, represents regular numbering at 1,000,000/block, and a block (1) 1 yuan with a serial of 900691, which is inconclusive since higher serials could exist; more data are needed.



### Statistical Analysis

We also conducted statistical analysis of serial numbers to determine if the 1932 - 1941 Manchukuo 6-digit serial number notes fit the pattern of known replacements or are different. Although the statistics are based on small numbers of notes tabulated from our observations, found on-line, and in books and other publications, the indication is that they do NOT fit the pattern of replacements.

Assuming we are randomly sampling serial numbers, their average should be the median value. That is, if the serials ranged from 1 to 100, the average should be 50 and twice the mean is the approximate size of the population. Although not statistically precise, we can assume that we have observed random serial numbers which have some range. First consider confirmed replacements. Out of 62 replacement notes of all denominations of the Philippine Rizal notes, the average serial was 1009577, with the highest serial of this group being 1034952. If we look at leading-9 serials from the Japanese homeland (1943 - 1946), we obtain a similar number; of 37 notes, the average was 909318, with the highest serial being 932960. Finally, for 34 leading-1, 7-digit Manchukuo replacement notes, the average was 1010276, with the highest observed serial being 1033913. In all three of these groups of replacements, we obtain a robust average for the last five digits of the serial number of about 10,000 with a maximum value in the mid-30,000 range; the average indicates about 20000 replacements/block were used in an average block.

However, if we examine the six-digit notes of Manchukuo, for the 1932 flag notes, we obtain an average of 940429 for 20 notes with the highest observed serial of 991210. While this is a bit lower than the expected value of 950000 if these are not replacements, it is closer to it, and significantly greater, than the 910000 average for known replacements; in fact, this average value exceeds the known highest values from other known groups of replacements.

The situation is much clearer for the 6-digit serial 1935 "revised" series, where of 22 notes with leading-9 serials, the average was 955043 with a highest reported value of 996617. These values are what would be expected if the leading-9 serials were printed at 1,000,000 per block, as decreed by the amended law.

These statistics, while based on small sample sizes, indicate that the population of serial numbers is very different between confirmed replacements (homeland 9xxxxx notes and the Philippine and Manchukuo 10xxxxx notes) and the 1932 "Flag" series and the 1935 "revised" notes of Manchukuo.

### Conclusions

The statistical data support the documentary information we have



obtained that the notes of Manchukuo prior to 1941 were printed at one million notes per block and therefore that leading-9 serial numbers of Manchukuo are not replacement notes. We are now extending our study to other Japanese-related notes from 1930 to 1951 to discriminate replacement note procedures that were used

## **Editorial**

Happy Thanksgiving! It has been a technical struggle since the last Gram, but we are still improving the average time between Grams. At first I could not remember how to get started on a new Gram, but when I solved that, I still had time to get a Thanksgiving Gram out so I struggled to make that--barely! The main problem there was the images for the lead article. I had to labor mightily on that, but the success is greater than you think. This is the first Gram that I have published from a Windows laptop without having to download the images on my Mac, copy them to a thumb drive, transfer the drive to the laptop then continue the process on the Windows box. For the first time I was able (after exhaustive attempts) been able to cut out those Mac steps. Can I do it again next time? Hopefully.

The lead article is great and important. It is a pleasure to have this article in the Gram. I am sorry that it was delayed because of all of those missing Grams since June. The added good news is the Kazuya Fujita is planning on coming to Fest XIX in May. I think that he wants to have a training Fest before Fest XX! I have been trying to get him to attend the Fest for many years, so it will be really great to have him there.

## **Letters to the editor**

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### **Dear Gram,**

Here is a listing for the Gram calendar for our local coin show. It will be our 49th annual and we would love to see many Gramsters there.

**March 23** The Waukesha Coin Club will hold its 49th Annual Coin Show on Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the New Berlin Ale House, 16000 W. Cleveland Avenue, New Berlin, WI

As in past years, Fester Dave Hunsicker will have a table at the show and Fester John Watta will be the MC of the show. In past years some Festers like Neil Shafer and Karen Jach have found time to attend the show. We hope any other Festers in the area can join us at this year's show.

For more information, go to: [www.waukeshacoinclub.com](http://www.waukeshacoinclub.com)

John Watta

Dear John,

Thank you very much for the notice. It is exactly the type of listing that we like. Of course it gives the basic information about the show, but also (most importantly) it tells why a Gramster might want to attend. In this case because some specific Festers will be in attendance.

Everyone is encouraged to submit such listings.

Editor

Dear Gram,

I just wanted to send a quick note giving my thanks for the return of



the Gram. I hope all is well with you and I look forward to more MPC Grams.

Thanks,

Mike Schmidt

Dear John,

Thank you for your encouraging words! We appreciate any and all feedback. Praise is nice (great), but comments, questions and every other type is welcome too!

Editor

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## MPC 5 at Fest 19 (2018)

by Fred Schwan

It has been fifteen years since the release of the fourth edition of then MPC catalog. How can that be? We have talked about a new edition for several years, but now is the time. Much of the work has been done, but of course there is, much still to be done. That is where you come in. I want to make this a really great edition--as near to perfect as we can make it.

We would like to have your comments, suggestions, criticisms and general ideas (although the more specific ones are better). Please start bombarding me with the above. Do not bother with the suggestion that images should be in color. There certainly will be color. We do not know yet if the entire book will be in color or now, but there will be substantial color.



Here is what I consider to be a thorny problem. Please go to page 244 of the current edition. That page starts the two-page listing for Series 651. It makes a nice spread as it is. However, with the addition of images from the Paymaster Collection and some other information, there is a space problem. Being the comprehensive book that it is, we would like to illustrate a full set of specimen certificates. Actually, we would like to illustrate full sets of regulars, specimen, and replacement certificates. In the previous editions we illustrated the regular issues in the catalog section and the replacements in an appendix. We threw in a few specimens in the catalog section. Now we have comprehensive images of specimens available.

It seem to me that we can do the following. 1) add a few images to the

spread that we have, 2) add two more pages after the current spread, 3) create a separate specimen section where most or all specimens are illustrated (I anticipate that listing for the specimens would still be part of the comprehensive listings), 4) some other solution.

A small additional twist. The next pair of catalog pages are for Series 661. The same problem exists except that it is easier to fill the Series 661 pages because of the extra denomination. With the 651s, the extra pages will be a bit open. Probably I can just repeat the backs from the previous pages, but I actually do not like that. So what to do? I would love to have your opinion.

More good news. As I work on the book I will be able to make reports here in the *Gram* of new (revised) things. I have two documents on my desk at this moment that are robust with NEW information. The info is not earth shattering, but it is very interesting and new. You will like it and I expect to give you the first installment in the next few days.

Stay tuned and send you thoughts and ideas.

As an aside, I want to tell you a story about the image above. It hardly seems possible that we are including a specimen Series 651 fractional note in the *Gram*. For many years a report of the mere existence of a 651 fractional would have been headline news. In 1973 when the fourth edition of Ray Toy's World War II Military Currency was about to go to press, I received a photograph from the BEP that we had to get into the book. It was a black and white image of a specimen Series 651 50 cent certificate! It was a spectacular photograph. We stuck the photo on the copyright page just to get it in! The rest as they say is history. Now a few collectors even have specimens of this certificate in their collections!!

### Editorial

I was recently at physical therapy for a replaced shoulder. I was wearing an MPCFest T shirt. A fellow approached me with a bewildered expression. He opined that the only MPC that he knew of was the funny money that he used in Vietnam. I think to his surprise, I responded that that was the MPC in question. We then entered into a short discussion about Viet Nam era MPC and MPC in general. Now the funny part. In spite of his surprise as to the subject of the shirt, he was not at all surprised that there are collectors of MPC and even that we have a Fest. Since he is a local guy, I think that I will be able to get him to the preFest bourse. You never can tell where you will find a collector.

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I recently received my subscription copy of *Paper Money*. Of course it is the journal of the Society of Paper Money Collectors. I love both (the society and the journal). In reviewing the copy, I found the obligatory annual statement of mailing and saw that the society has only a little of 1000 members. Respectable to be sure, but well below where it should be. Ok, I am a bit crazy (you all know that). I think that we should set a goal of having more *Gram* subscribers than *Paper Money* has! If possible, I will be happy to promote SPMC membership here, but I want to beat it in the subscription race. We are at about 400 subscribers so it seems possible. That seems like a two year goal to me.

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Relating to the ideas for the new book, I am considering the addition of a section in the *Gram* devoted to the revisions etc. In that section we could also give credit to those who have made submissions. Any thoughts

on this idea?

### **Letters to the editor**

Letters are welcome on a wide variety of topics relating to military numismatics. We run most mail received, but it might be late and it might be edited a bit. Thank you for your mail.

Dear Gram,

Are we ever going to see the new [MPC] book?

Bill McNease

Dear Bill,

Perfect timing! See above. Now we want to have your specific ideas and comments to make the book as good as possible. Also, we want to see you at the Fest where you can receive your numbered copy!

Editor

### **Training Schedule (Gram Calendar)**

The Gram calendar is different from most numismatic calendars. We strive to list events that are of specific interest to Gramsters. This does not mean that we will not list general coin or paper money shows, but there should be something of special interest to collectors of military numismatic items. We will be happy to list non traditional events if they meet the special interest criteria.

### **2018**

**FUN** The Florida United annual convention each January is a great show in many ways. It is huge so you are likely to be able to find something for your collection. Many Festers attend so there is plenty of opportunity for fellowship. Confirmed Gramsters to be in attendance: Ray and Steve Feller, Carol Bastable. (Fred and Judy to be determined).

**March 23** The Waukesha Coin Club will hold its 49th Annual Coin Show on Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the New Berlin Ale House, 16000 W. Cleveland Avenue, New Berlin, WI  
As in past years, Fester Dave Hunsicker will have a table at the show and Fester John Watta will be the MC of the show. In past years some Festers like Neil Shafer and Karen Jach have found time to attend the show. We hope any other Festers in the area can join us at this year's show.  
For more information, go to: [www.waukeshacoinclub.com](http://www.waukeshacoinclub.com)

**May 4-6** MPCFest 19. Holiday Inn Express, 50 NE Catawba Road, Port Clinton, OH 43452. Reservations call Kim at 419 732 7322. Chat or questions call Fred at 419 349 1872.

### **Gram Exchange**

*Do you have something for sale (or trade)? You can offer these items here in the Gram Exchange. Send your text and images (!) to the editor for inclusion in the Gram Exchange.*

-----under construction, returning soon-----

### **MPC GRAM STAFF & INFO**

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### 2017

17-22 June (week one), 24-29 June (week two) ANA Summer Seminar, Colorado Springs

1-5 August ANA convention, aka World's Fair of Money, Denver Colorado,

### 2018

**May 4-6** MPCFest 19. Holiday Inn Express, 50 NE Catawba Road, Port Clinton, OH 43452. Reservations call Kim at 419 732 7322. Chat or questions call Fred at 419 349 1872.



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Series 1944 50 marks Forbes Printing Replacement VF-EF \$500.00.  
davideseelye@gmail.com. Free domestic postage.



MPCFest XVIII challenge coin and Battle of Midway commemorative medal \$4 plus \$1 per order for shipping. While supplies last, we will send one bright finish and one matte finish for \$9. Because these are challenge coins, they were issued at Fest XVIII for deeds well done. To place an order you must promise to perform a good deed as part of your purchase. A classic and appropriate good deed would be to show your challenge coin to a non collector to introduce them to a whole new field. Another great good deed is to thank a veteran for her/his service. We are sure that you do this regularly, so in your mind thank one on behalf of the Fest or even tell the person that you are thinking them on behalf of a strange, but keen group. Please do not use snail mail. For Paypal use fredschwan@yahoo.com. For snail mail write to the same address.

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